

## **From the Pastor**

*May 2017*

As a kid, I took delight in making May Day baskets out of recycled strawberry containers or cut up egg cartons. In these precious gifts I placed candy, stickers and beautiful flowers otherwise known as dandelions. It was a thrill to place these May Day baskets on the porch of unsuspecting neighbors. I rang the doorbell and ran away with so much joy and a belly full of giggles. I always hoped that these baskets full of treasures would brighten someone's day and add a bit of mystery to one's life.

Throughout this season of Easter, Christians continue to encounter the risen Christ. He sits on the beach cooking fish, meets the travelers on the road to Emmaus, surprised Mary as she left the tomb and came to the scared disciples locked away in the upper room. Jesus keeps showing up on people's doorsteps with the good news, he is risen. Where there was once death and despair there is now life and hope.

Within the Christian tradition many believe we are people of the resurrection. While death once had power over us, in Christ, death no longer has the final word. The resurrected Jesus not only promises life after death but breathes hopes into all areas of our lives that need healing. He shows up on our doorstep unexpectedly with a gift of grace, love and forgiveness. Like May Day baskets these treasured gifts wait to be opened; we don't always know where they will come from, but they are meant to bring joy into one's life and perhaps a bit of wonder.

The Psalmist sang "The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy" (Psalm 65:8). It is easy for us to allow cynicism and rationalism to dominate our lives and our thoughts. It can be how the world operates and we are one cog within the machine. Yet within faith there is room for us to indulge the childlike wonder we once possessed as we engaged the world. This spring, may your eyes be opened to the wonders of God. May you be blessed by awe inspiring, God infused surprises whether left in a basket or among those you encounter. May you sing songs of joy for our God who brings life where there was once death.