

Contact Information

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GOOD THINGS FROM ZION

April 2023



April helpers

Cleaner—Megan and George

Usher—Harvey and Jerry

Lector—Carol

Communion Asst.—Megan

Acolyte

April 2—Henry

April 9—Anne

April 16—Henry

April 23—Anne

The Wind

I do not like wind. A gentle breeze is nice. But now we're in this stretch where the wind blows every day, anywhere from 15 – 30 miles an hour. It makes being outside less pleasant, even when it's warm. It makes using the fire pit impossible.

But it seems like there's more to it for me than those annoyances. The sound of it makes me feel uneasy. It even creates a sense of desolation – I'll sometimes say the wind blows a hole in my soul. Maybe it comes from a life lived in tornado country. But for a while, I've been pondering the spiritual dimension.

Wind is an interesting entity in the Bible. In both ancient languages of the Bible, Hebrew and Greek, the same word can mean either breath, wind, or spirit. In Hebrew, it's Ruach. In Greek it's pneuma.

Genesis begins with ruach....in the beginning a wind from God blew over the waters of chaos. God's breath formed words – let there be light. And a universe came into being. Then God breathed life into a human being made from clay and the human came to life.

In Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones, God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the breath – come from the four winds, oh breath. And it was so. The wind...God's breath...brought the once dried up bones to life.

Jesus said the Spirit was like the wind – it blows where it will, and you don't know where it comes from or where it goes.

At Pentecost, the Spirit came as a powerful wind and made the disciples speak in languages they did not know so that the gospel of life could be preached to all.

The Spirit is in the business of blowing life where there once was death. All of those biblical scenes are in essence images of resurrection. So you'd think that the sound of wind would bring a feeling of reassurance rather than unease and desolation.

But think about the cataclysmic changes in those scenes. In all of them, death was a part. Imagine what has to happen to make a lump of clay into something beautiful and enduring. It has to be smashed and kneaded and molded and heated with intense fire.

Resurrection is not a peaceful process. It means unimaginable changes in what is to come from what was. That brings an uneasy feeling. It may even bring a sense of desolation, because we too often long for what once was – like the wandering Israelites longed for the stew pots in Egypt.



It is not the Spirit's job to always make us comfortable. In fact, this wind that comes from we know not where and blows where it will more often make us downright uncomfortable.

That's the reality of resurrection. Joy? Yes, absolutely. Gratitude for Jesus' act? Profound gratitude.

But then, we face the reality that everything has changed and we're not standing on the same ground we were before.

So, it is fitting that the wind makes me feel uneasy, desolate even. But the wind is also a symbol of new things coming to be. In the midst of unease and desolation, we grab on to the hope of what is to come as the Spirit continues the work of resurrection in our own lives, in the church, and in the world.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Barnabas Community

The Barnabas Community is an organization in the Belmont neighborhood of Lincoln that has a store for folks in need to get clothing and household items. They also offer a weekly worship service.

Gary Grinvalds, the seminary student who is helping with confirmation, preaches and leads worship service on the second Thursday of the month. The confirmation class will be taking a field trip there on May 11. The congregation can help by donating items for us to take there.

Here is their list of needs:

- Men's Jeans (All sizes)
- Men's Briefs (All sizes)
- Men's Shirts/ Sweaters (Large to XXXL)
- Women's Jeans (All sizes)
- Women's Clothing (L, XL, XXL)
- Pots and Pans
- Dishes
- Bedding (sheets, blankets, etc.)
- Towels

Items can be new or used, but if used they need to be in good condition

Calendar

Worship is livestreamed to the church YouTube channel. You can find the link to that and the bulletin on our website: [Online Worship](#)

April 2	9:00 am—Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
April 6	Maundy Thursday—Stripping of the Altar, Holy Communion 6:30 at Zion 8:00 at Bethlehem
April 7	6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service—at Bethlehem
April 9	9:00 am—Easter Breakfast 10:15—Easter worship
April 16	9:00 am—Worship
April 19	7:00 pm—Confirmation class
April 23	9:00 am—Worship
April 30	9:00 am—Worship

Post-Easter confirmation schedule:

April 12 – no class

April 19 – class

April 26 – No class

May 3 – Class

Thursday May 11 – trip to the Barnabas project for worship and to help serve the meal. Worship is at 5:30 – Gary is preaching. We'll carpool from Zion – details will be forthcoming
The rest of May's schedule is TBD.

June 4—Affirmation of Baptism service