

GRACE NOTES

April Birthdays:

- 5th – Kathy Poehlmann
- 16th – Kathy Gaustad
- 21st – Doug Lathrop
- 24th – Eileen Blankenship
- 26th – Robert Mills & Janet Kaetterhenry

April Anniversaries:

- 7th – Dave and Betty Clough (29 years)

He is Risen!!!



- Important April Dates -

- April 7th - 9:00 am Communion Sunday*
- April 14th - 9:00 am Sunday Worship*
1:00 pm Reception for Leon & Betty Thompson
at the McCloud Presbyterian Church
- April 21st - **9:00 am** Easter Sunday Worship*
- April 23rd - 11:30 am Ladies Birthday Luncheon at Ellie's in Weed*
- April 29th - 10:00 am Session Meets*
- May 5th - **10:00 am** Special joint worship here with McCloud PC*
Baptism of Solomon Glen Welch

	LAY READER	GREETERS & USHERS
7	John Pitzer	Don VonTungeln & Mike Krause
14	Marylin Harrington	Neil & Marge McDowell
21	John Christ	Eileen Blankenship & Fred Lennard
28	June Watson	Marylin Harrington & Jan Mauck

COMMUNION – APRIL: JUNE WATSON MAY: BETTY CLOUGH

April 2019

Brothers and Sisters,

As we prepare for the holiday of Easter we recognize that for God's people, celebrating the resurrection of Christ is something that we do every day of the year. Yet, this time of year offers us a wonderful opportunity to focus solely on this preeminently precious event. To that end, I would like to note a few important truths to keep in mind and take to heart as we meditate on the blessing of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, the resurrection of Christ is not fantasy or myth, it is a historical fact.

This point cannot be emphasized enough. Not only does the Bible speak of the resurrection of Jesus but many ancient scholars, historians, and even Roman documents speak to the certainty of the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, buried, and witnessed afterward as alive. Many people deny the resurrection because it seems impossible. They say, "It would have to be a miracle!" That is exactly right, but believing in miracles does not mean believing in fantasy. It means believing in something that only God can do. Simon Greenleaf, a famous Harvard law professor of the 19th century said, "*All that Christianity asks of men, is that they would be consistent with themselves, that they would treat its evidences as they treat the evidence of other things, and that they would try and judge its actors and witnesses as they deal with their fellow men, when testifying to human affairs and actions in human tribunals... the result... will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability, and truth.*"

Second, because the resurrection is a fact then our hope is secure.

The modern definition of hope mostly means a wish or desire which has more to do with something we want to happen, not something we know will happen. But the Biblical definition of hope means a confident and secure expectation and desire for something good from God in the future. So why does this distinction matter? Because it roots our hope in something and someone outside ourselves that is secure and unchanging. It roots our hope in the person and work of Jesus, truly God and truly man. The writer of Hebrews speaks of this hope as the result of God's desire to demonstrate the security of His eternal promises and His changeless nature.

"So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf," Hebrews 6:17–20a, ESV

Third, the resurrection is the proof that our hope is not in vain.

The entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 is a testament to the factual nature of the resurrection of Jesus and its importance to the authenticity of our faith.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 tells us that we must believe in and hope in the Gospel, the message of salvation for sinners through Christ alone. It points to the resurrection of Jesus as the validation and mark of authenticity of the Gospel itself and thus of our belief in it.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 tells us that the foundation of our hope is the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. This is established by naming many of the witnesses to the resurrection, most of whom were still alive at the time of Paul's writing and would be able to be questioned about what they saw regarding Jesus by anyone who wanted to investigate. In fact, the Gospel of Luke

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and the book of Acts are the result of the historian and doctor, Luke, who investigated the story of Jesus' life and the ministry of His followers.

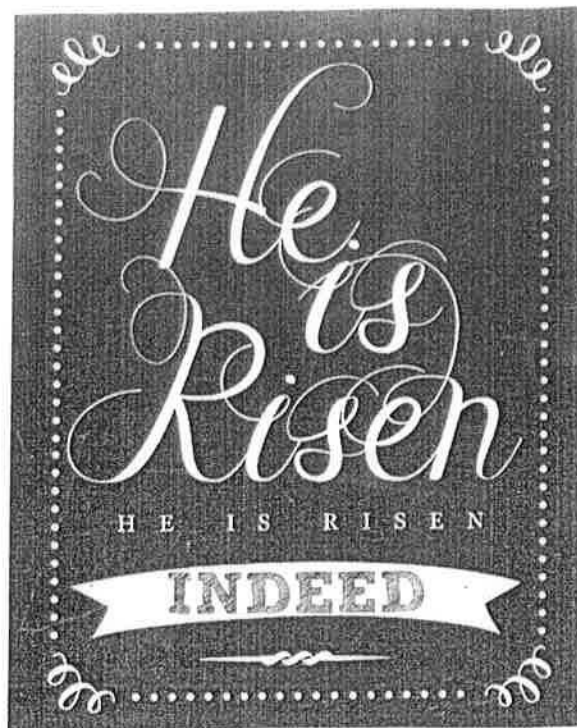
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 is a sharp rebuke of those who would deny the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus. Many people call the Biblical teaching on the resurrection a metaphor for new beginnings or redemption but deny its reality or historicity. Verse 17 clearly states that if Christ has not been raised then our faith is useless and there is no forgiveness of sins. But here we find the greatest hope of all, that Christ truly has been raised from the dead! His resurrection is the source of our hope that our sins can be forgiven. And that we can be made whole.

Finally, the resurrection is proof that Jesus defeated His enemies and purchased our forgiveness and eternal salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 states that the resurrection is the fulfillment of God's promise. From the very first pages of Genesis we read about Adam's fall and the disease of sin entering into the world. Sin leads to death; both physical and spiritual. But the resurrection of Christ gives us hope that death will not be the end. There is a pain caused by the idea of death. Many of us have faced this with our loved ones and we know that death is not natural. The Bible makes it clear that God made Adam and Eve to live in perfect peace and health in the garden of Eden. But because of their sin, death entered in and the story of mankind has been one of sin, pain, and death ever since. But because of the resurrection we know that death does not get the final word. The great theologian and thinker, Jonathan Edwards, said this about effects of the hope of eternal life in the life of a believer, "*God [desires] to open a door of hope, a door through which there flashes a sweet light out of heaven upon the soul. Then comfort arises, and then is there a new song in the mouth, even praise unto God.*" (The Works of Jonathan Edwards vol II-III pg. 251)

I pray that by reflecting on the resurrection each and every day, God would open a wide door of hope in our souls so that we might joyfully glorify Him with everything within us. May all God's people rejoice with hope in the reality of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with renewed awe and gratitude as we shout, **"He is risen! He is risen indeed!"**

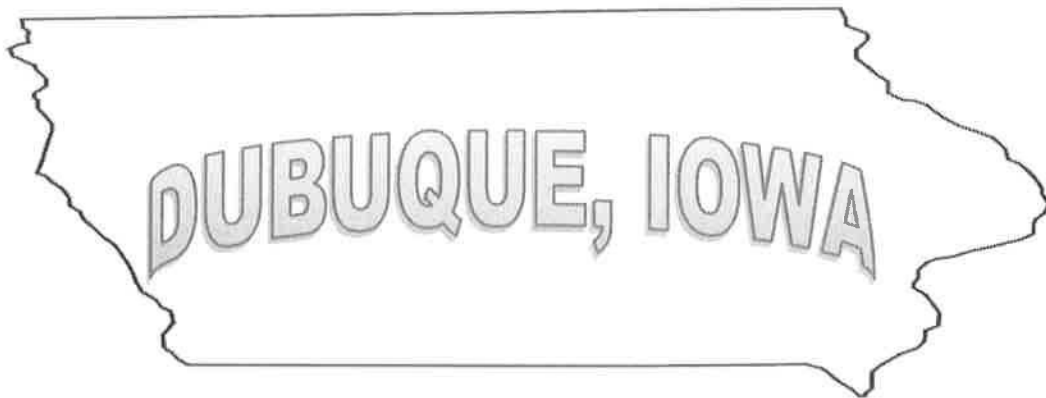
Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick.



A FAREWELL PARTY
FOR
REV LEON & BETTY THOMPSON

April 14, 2019

1:00 to 3:00 pm



Leon and Betty are moving to Iowa to be closer to their family.
Please join us at an open house as we visit with them before
they leave at the end of April.

Light refreshments will be served.

There will be a basket for cards.

McCloud Community Church
428 California Avenue

Any questions call Edie at 964-2215 or Sybil at 964-2664