

April 29, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

It was a busy week for the Huntley United Methodist Women. They held their annual Garage and Bake Sale at the church on Saturday. But there was a lot of prep-work to make that all go off without a hitch, so it is a multi-day affair to put on each year. The good news is that the weather mostly cooperated, there was an abundant array of choices both at the garage sale and the bake sale, many hands arrived to do their part, and it was a good day all around. Thanks to all those who donated items, who worked to set up for the day, who worked the day of the sale, who helped to clean up afterwards, and to those who purchased treasures and goodies. The Huntley United Methodist Women had a good day financially, and those funds will be used throughout the year for their mission work, both here in the local community and all around the world. Thank you to all those who help our little church make a big difference in the world.

In worship this Sunday at Huntley United Methodist Church we looked at the story of Doubting Thomas. Thomas gets a lot of bad press, but I don't necessarily think that is fair. I think Thomas is a lot like you and me. We don't know why he wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them, but he was absent. Perhaps a better name for him would be 'Absent Thomas.' Thomas was a realist. For him, seeing was believing. It was a lot for him to believe that Jesus could rise from the dead, and he was a little slow to believe, but so were the other disciples. They all doubted the women's story of Christ's resurrection.

But the next time the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples, Thomas was present. As soon as he saw the marks of Christ's suffering, he proclaimed confidently, "My Lord, and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." We are more than two thousand years removed from that room with the locked doors, but many of us have the same resistance that Thomas had. How can we believe even though we were not there to see the scars and to hear the words of reassurance the risen Christ spoke to those who were his followers?

The first thing we can learn is to stay in the company of fellow believers. If you want to keep your faith strong, if you want to have a support group that will be there in your time of need, your local church family is where you will most likely find it. Surround yourself with people of faith. That's one way to ensure that doubt and skepticism don't sap you of your confidence in God. And also remember that a locked mind is a far bigger obstacle than a locked door. Thomas may have sounded like a firm skeptic when he stated that he would not believe unless he saw with his own eyes and touched with his own hands, but he still showed up to hang out with the other disciples. He could have left town for good, but he hung in there with his friends. I think it is because he really wanted to believe, and I hope you do as well. So the lesson is to be faithful in worship, and if you don't have a church home, find one. You won't be sorry that you did.

It is another busy week at Huntley United Methodist Church. We will host a Huntley Community Blood Drive at the church on Wednesday, May 1st, from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and donate. We still have slots available on Wednesday. Make appointments with Kathe at 839-5844 or online at www.vitalant.org.

Give the gift of life. Donate this coming week at Huntley United Methodist Church.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman