

March 4, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

It was bitterly cold yesterday, and that definitely reduced our worship attendance yesterday at Huntley United Methodist Church. Plus a few folks are experiencing seasonal illness, and that didn't help either. My father-in-law is in the hospital with influenza A, as well, so that is the season we are in. It looks like the weather will improve greatly in the coming days with much warmer temperatures, so that is a blessing. I also pray for the ranchers and others who take care of animals this time of year, and ask God's special protection of them and the animals they care for.

Yesterday at Huntley United Methodist Church we talked about the Transfiguration Story of Jesus which is traditional on the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. This is an important story and experience, especially for the disciples. The disciples needed this experience to fortify them in their faith for the days of trial that were to come.

Just prior to this experience, Jesus had told them the cold, hard truth that "the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day raised up." These words shattered the disciples' bright dream that Jesus was indeed the Christ of God. The shadow of the cross fell upon their hearts, filling them with fear, and striking down their hope.

How would God recall their lost hope, revive their courage, and teach them that death does not end all, and that one shall find his life by losing it? The Transfiguration is the answer. Their experience on the mountain would wake them to a new level of faith. The dispirited disciples needed at this moment in their lives the glory of Christ revealed. And when his glory was revealed, they were able to get their lives back on track and follow Jesus down the mountain to where their destiny awaited.

And that's what many of us need to know in the middle of our trying times. That God is still God. That Christ is still Lord. That beyond the darkness – whatever that darkness may be – there is still the dawn. We do not have to fear, we walk with the Risen Christ, and we live in hope.

Tomorrow, March 5th, is Shrove Tuesday, and the children and youth will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at Huntley United Methodist Church from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. I hope to see you there!

Wednesday, March 6th, is Ash Wednesday, and Huntley United Methodist Church will host a Community Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Huntley UMC Administrative Board will meet on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

See you in worship,
Pastor Gary Geiman