

May 27, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Happy Memorial Day 2019! Blessings on you as we enter into the summer season. On this day we remember and honor all our fallen war dead, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. Their sacrifice makes clear to us that freedom is not free, but comes at a terrible cost. May we all take some time to remember and honor their memory on this special day.

This past Sunday in worship at Huntley United Methodist Church we talked about John's vision in Revelation of the City of God which is the promised ultimate destination of all who love the Lord our God with all their heart. There are several points to be made about the significance of John's vision, but here is one of the most important. John saw the Holy City coming down from heaven from God. It did not rise up from the earth. The Kingdom of God never will come from our striving upward. It always comes downward as a free gift from God.

That was the main lesson from the tower of Babel story in the Old Testament. In the days after the great flood, the people of the earth gather together to build a great city, and in the middle of that city they build a great tower – the tower of Babel. They intend to build the tower high enough to reach heaven itself. God wasn't impressed or amused. God destroys the tower and scatters the people across the face of the earth.

None of our efforts will ever raise us up to God's level. We can't earn God's gift of salvation, or buy it, or even deserve it. We can only accept it as the free and generous gift of a loving and forgiving God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Next Sunday, June 2, 2019 begins our summer schedule. Worship during the summer months will be at 9:30 a.m.

See you in worship,  
Pastor Gary Geiman