



May 2017

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EASTER: *Peace and Joy! Power and Purpose!*

Easter is not a one day deal! In the church, we set aside "a week of weeks," or 49 days to focus on its tremendous meaning and blessing. In fact, in the church's tradition, every Sunday is a "little Easter!" Each Lord's day brings the blessings of Jesus' resurrection from the grave. May we ever experience their fullness.

Easter delivers **peace**. Jesus greeted the disciples cowering behind locked doors in fear -- "Peace be with you." (John 20:19) "My death has taken care of your sins. God is not against you. My forgiveness unites you with Him. You are my family. Don't be afraid!" Reconciled to God, we face the future with peace and hope-filled hearts.

The response of the disciples was **joy**. They were glad to see their risen Lord. His scarred hands and feet signaled that He really was back from the dead and was alive. There was **hope**. Death had been defeated! They could rejoice, and so can we. Easter fills our hearts with joy.

When Jesus appeared, He breathed on His disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit--and with that gift--**purpose for living**. "As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you," He said. We've got a mission (work) to do-- loving, serving, caring, witnessing, living life according to God's will and plan, just as He did! There's direction for our lives. We're agents of the new creation. There's no excuse for aimless drifting from one thing to the next. Easter gives us purpose.

Easter also means **power** for living with purpose. The One whose resurrection signals His triumph over all the forces of darkness--fear, sin, shame, guilt, death and the devil--has given us a wonderful promise: "I will be with you all the days until the end of the age." That's a promise that bestows **power!**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may Easter ever fill our hearts with **peace and power**, that we may live, serve, and witness to our risen Lord with **purpose and joy!** Easter may only be one day on the calendar, but I trust its fruits keep on showing up in our lives day after day.

Pastor Michael

Two Special Events: May 4, the Stephen Ministers of Dahlonge United Methodist Church are sponsoring a time for prayer at Hancock Park from 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. The first Thursday of May has been designated a "National Day of Prayer," and provides a time for us to pray intentionally and specially for our country. If you are not able to attend this event, we encourage you to remember the nation in prayer, especially that day. Perhaps the little prayer booklet we prepared last year can be of assistance to you.

We will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Wednesday night, May 24 at 7:00 P.M. Scripture and song, prayer and the message will help us see that our Lord's ascension to the right hand of the Father means power for the mission He has given us. There He prays for us, that we may remain faithful. While visibly absent from our eyes, He remains with us to strengthen us. He sends the Spirit to enable our witness and service. Truly the Ascension is an event worth celebrating. Come and be blessed!

Movies Under the Stars will again be offered on the second Friday of May, June, July and August. Family friendly movies, the shows start when it gets dark enough. In an effort to connect with our community, the Board of Outreach is sponsoring an ad for our church, and on May 12 will be manning a booth from 5 P.M. to show time to talk with people who might come.