

Memories
April 1, 2010

All week, I have been asking people to share with me their favorite memories of Easter and Holy Week. It has been good to hear the joy of others talk about Easter celebrations and memories. It has also brought to mind for me, those special moments of Holy Week and Easter that have been a part of my life.

I have had the chance to remember the warmth of family time spent on the farm with my grandparents. We did things like dye Easter eggs. We participated in discovering our Easter baskets. We shared the joy of spending time together, eating terrific food, experiencing the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus, even as the world was resurrecting again, all around us with the birth of spring from winters long grip. We worshipped in the simple setting of a country church with the gifts of music and ministry shared in heartfelt, meaningful ways.

When I became a parent, I always wanted my children to experience the joy and warmth of Easter. We made worship at Holy Week services a part of our routine (of course, being a pastor and a dad I had a huge say in what our children experienced during Holy Week). We took time to dye Easter eggs. We cultivated family time. With my own family, I discovered the joy that I had looked forward to experiencing for my self (in discovering Easter gifts and family moments) become transferred to wanting my children to experience these things.

These memories of Holy Week and Easter, the (mostly) good and the (few) difficult memories have shaped me and the faith that I hold.

As a faith community, we will gather this week again, to share memories. The memories we share will begin tonight at 7:00 PM when we gather for our Holy Thursday worship. Tonight we will gather in the Fellowship Hall around tables and our service will be one of sharing in a Agape Communion Service in which we deepen our understanding of the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

Our memory sharing will continue tomorrow with Good Friday services beginning at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. We will remember the death of Jesus and the pain that was felt by all who love him.

On Saturday, we will gather at 5:00 PM for an Easter Vigil. During this time we will share in the telling of the story of Salvation that comes to us through the Scriptures. Originally in the early church, this service lasted all night long. Our vigil will last one hour ending with communion.

On Sunday morning we will begin worship at 7:00 PM at Wetmore Park (if it is raining we will gather in the Sanctuary). We will also worship at 8:30 and 10:45. On Sunday, we will be focusing on the joy of resurrection and the gift of life that God has given to Jesus and offers to us.

These are the memories we will share. And these memories from scripture will continue to shape us and our faith community today, as they have throughout the ages. I hope you will join us for many of these services to allow this story to touch and shape you for our journey through life.

In the hope Jesus offers us,
Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.