



## **Brewerton United Methodist Church Weekly Update, April 17, 2011**

Greetings!

As I sit here in my office finishing up weekly tasks, making sure preparations for tomorrow are in place and preparing for the week to come, the wind is howling around the church and the rain is coming down steadily. It is certainly looking likely that our palm procession will be an indoor one again this year. No matter, it will be just as fun and just as festive indoors as out.

It has been a truly long week, and yet I am really energized by the approach of Holy Week. This is really the highlight of our Christian faith, tradition and beliefs. Being able to read along in the scriptures as we go day by day through the events of Passion week makes the events come alive. We can sense the feeling of time as it passes, just as Jesus and the disciples did. Unlike many other faiths, the Easter story - God become man becomes sacrifice for his creation - plays itself out day by day, drama by drama. I like to try and put myself in the shoes of the first disciples and think about what I would see and hear, and most importantly, feel about what was happening around me.

Not an easy task, since we are cultures apart and we have the benefit of knowing the full story. The exhilaration, the confusion, the fear, the dismay, the wonder and the rejoicing had to have been intense as they flowed - one after another.

While I love Christmas for its traditions, snow and wonder, I have to admit that Easter is the holiday I am most thankful for. What Jesus did for me on that Friday long ago is something I will hold in wonder and awe until I go home. To think that he came to reconnect me with the Father when I myself was unable to, and that in doing so he sacrificed himself is surely one of the most amazing true stories ever told. It never gets old for me and often serves as an occasional wake-up call for me if my life begins to drift from its spiritual moorings.

I would invite all of you to partake in and enjoy the Holy Week offerings at church this week. Take some time out of your busy schedule to reconnect with the story, with the man behind the story, and the God behind the man.

Thursday's 6:30 PM Christian Seder is not only a wonderful connection with our Old Covenant spiritual foundation but is also a wonderful tie in to the New Covenant life we live together. And of course, a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner is always a good thing.

Friday's 6:30 "Good Friday" service is perhaps one of the most moving worship gatherings of the year. It is a time to reflect on Jesus' final hours and the incredible love that made him choose to lay down his life for us. Included in the service is a reconciliation piece that allows us to spiritually clean our slate and reconnect with Jesus. It is an intense and personal time of devotional worship.

And, of course there is Easter. The absolute highlight of our year. A joyous celebration of the fact that we know the end of the story....Jesus Wins!!! And, because he wins, we win as well. Between his advocacy for us at the right hand of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives we are fully covered in grace and power. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor to come to church with you - it really is a story worth telling!

Here are some things that are going on around Church:

1) **Please be in prayer** about the work the SPRC is doing to interview for and fill the Child Care Director opening. There have been some good candidates and we are now in the process of checking references after the second interviews. God has someone out there that is a perfect fit for the work that awaits in this mission program of our church, and prayers that the SPRC would clearly see God's direction in this process would be most appropriate and much appreciated.

2) Why not invite some friends to join us the following **Holy Week worship services at the church:**

Sunday, April 17 - 10:00 AM Palm Sunday (Bread for the World) followed by:  
11:30 AM Easter Cantata

Thursday, April 21 - 6:30 PM Holy Thursday  
Christian Seder and Chicken & Biscuit Dinner  
**Please contact me to reserve a spot**

Friday, April 22 - 6:30 PM Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 24- 10:00 AM Resurrection (Easter) Sunday!!

3) **All bulletin announcements should** go directly to Lois Groginski, our dedicated and excellent bulletin producer/editor. Unless she receives them, they will not make it into the bulletin. Please try to get bulletin items to her by Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday. Items submitted later than that may not make the bulletin that week.

4) **Have I missed anything?** Feel free to drop me a line with items that should be a part of OUR weekly update. Suggestions, corrections and other (constructive) comments may be emailed to me at [Garred98@aol.com](mailto:Garred98@aol.com). Please have it to me by Sunday morning for inclusion in the next week's update.

See you at Church, and around the Kingdom!

Pastor Roger, Lead Servant and co-pilgrim / sojourner