

APRIL 18, 2021

# Marion weekly update

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Connecting people with Jesus Christ so all can experience his love and joy."*



April 11: visiting minister, Pastor David Deatrach from Christ United Methodist in Waynesboro

## Call to Worship:

Pastor: It's the Sunday after Easter; the lilies are gone.

People: And we are alone with our faith

Pastor: Thomas said: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25b NRSV)

People: Easter is past, and we are alone with our faith.

Pastor: On this Sunday after Easter, help us grow into the faith that we confessed and celebrated last week. Reveal evidence of your resurrection for the days when we feel that we are alone with our faith.

## Opening Prayer (Unison)

Resurrected God, though we have hidden ourselves in a locked room and huddled together as ones who build barriers, send your Living Word through our locked doors and into our guarded hearts that we might be witnesses of your grace and couriers of your goodness. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant us the trust to believe the Gospel not because we see it but because we have been seen by it and transformed through it. Amen

Gospel Lesson from John 20:19-31

Pastor Deatrach provided this outline for you:

## Part 1--John 20-19-23;

Where: Upper room

When: Same Day when Mary discovered the Empty tomb. First day after Sabbath.

Why: To verify to all the disciples, not just the inner circle we later called apostles, what Mary had said to them about seeing Jesus.

To empower the Disciples with the Holy Spirit; this is not the same as the Pentecost event. It is about relationships with God.

## Part 2--John 20-24-31

Where: Upper Room,

When: Same as part 1 and eight days later.

Why: To satisfy Thomas' desire to see the physical Jesus.

Jesus wanted to calm Thomas' anxiety concerning the Resurrection.