

Dear Friends in Christ:

The texts following Easter Sunday often focus on the appearances of the Risen Lord to the Disciples. Fittingly we continue with a younger church body typically American called, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is a rather unique group with its beginnings on the frontier in the early 19th century. It grew out of a desire for freedom from religious tradition and an impulse for Christian unity.

It is ironic however that this unity suffers from a difference of opinion as to how to attain it. One group sees unity coming from involvement and work through the National and World Councils of Churches. Another, more independent group of churches sees this unity the result of other denominations conforming to what this group considers to be the pattern of the New Testament church. Freedom and Unity flow throughout the history of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Thomas Campbell a Presbyterian minister who came to the US from Ireland in 1807 was assigned a parish in Pennsylvania and became its most prominent leader. As a circuit rider his parish became so scattered and not all from the same branch of Presbyterianism. His desire that the people were all one was not shared by the synod and soon he was without a parish. The reform that resulted from his reaction to his dismissal from the parish began The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Alexander Campbell, son of Thomas, arrived in America with his father's family. Before learning of his father's estrangement with Presbyterians he himself became independent in his views and an advocate for Christian unity. Accepting the Declaration and Address, a 56 page document his father had written for their freedom and unity movement, the young Campbell devoted his life to its principals.



Because these ideas were not all that popular with many clergy they formed a separate congregation with the younger Campbell its leader. It became known as the Brush Run Church in 1811. Later the Redstone Baptist Association invited Brush Run to join into membership. When conditions of the union were not being kept Campbell aligned himself with the more liberal Mahoning Baptist Association in Ohio. The crusade of this group was against creeds, professional clergy, missionary societies and ecclesiasticism. Through a series of unions, church by church, and the inability to agree on a name, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is used today.

Because of its anti-creed stance and sole emphasis on the word of God issues related to sin, salvation, divinity of Christ, virgin birth, resurrection and others find much divergence of views in this denomination. Two ordinances, baptism and communion, are observed by this group. Communion is celebrated each week as a memorial, fellowship with Christ, and a channel of God's grace. Baptism is administered to only believers by immersion.

Worship takes no particular form or liturgy and is developed within each congregation. The autonomy of the congregations makes agreement on social issues and other matters difficult. The General Assembly will formulate views on such matters but not as legislation rather recommendation. Affirming the unity of Christians as their polar star, Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) resolve, "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent. "

Neighbors in Faith,

Pastor Hal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal:715-828-1112
Email: harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

FUNERAL

James D. Syverson- Big Elk Creek



BACCURLAUERATE SERVICE to honor our 2023 Graduates will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Elk Mound on Sunday evening May

14 at 7:30 pm. Local clergy participate in this special service recognizing those who complete their High School Years. The public is welcome to attend!



BARUM 9:00
BIG ELK CREEK 10:30

We join in worship and Holy Communion on this special day for our students who have completed their instruction and move forward to continue learning and sharing the lessons Jesus taught us all.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Barum Students | Big Elk Creek |
| Kaden Books | Shianne Hunt |
| Jacob Carstens | Parker Rhude |
| Easton Chisholm | |
| Nolan Ewings | |
| Kendra Garnett | |
| Madisyn Gehweiler | |
| Lola Jerome | |
| Blake Niska | |



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Day
May 07, 2023
John 14: 1-14
"Parting Words"

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023
John 14: 15-21
"Guess Who's Coming"

Ascension of our Lord
May 18, 2023
Luke 24: 44-53
"Left with a Commission"

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023
John 17: 1-11
"Jesus Prays for Us"

Day of Pentecost
May 28, 2023
John 20: 19-23
John 7: 37-39
"He Breathes On Us"

JOKES ONLY A MOTHER COULD LOVE

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?
"Don't be knotty."