

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

On this eleventh day of the Easter season the daffodils aside the house are in full bloom. The first one opened on Easter Sunday. I praised its timing. We are blessed to live in the northern hemisphere where the season of Easter coincides with the earth's season of early spring. Signs of life abound – crocus, narcissus, forsythia, buds on trees, songbirds returning and singing up a symphony. Clear water flows rather than stagnates in the ditch running along the parsonage property. Our loner turkey, I call her Hildegaard, has returned to scarf up the seeds that spill from the bird feeders. We haven't seen her for a year and she has grown. We'll see if she brings the rest of the gang, no, I think it is flock, along with her soon. The grey fox has also returned from his den, though we haven't seen his partner yet.

As we deepen into spring, the earth positions itself so I get the sun, large and golden-red, rising right between the trunks of the white pines in front of me, spilling orange light onto my writing desk. It feels like an invitation. Sit here. Observe what you can. Write it down. Love it well.

Although autumn is my favorite season, early spring comes in a close second. I can watch Joel's wheels turning as he stares out the back door at his flower garden wondering what he will plant this year. Of course, everything must be of benefit to his beloved birds and butterflies. Milkweed is just as treasured as the splendid blue delphinium and, luckily, seems to take well to the soil in our yard. The sunflowers that seed from the bird feeders are allowed to grow where they will. The finches will consume them later! Perhaps the garden is not very manicured, but it feeds our friends.

All this garden talk reminds me to thank the dozen or so people who helped to build our Resurrection Garden in the sanctuary. Gary Grant and Joel built its structure and the Circle of Presence, along with your donated flowers, filled it with life! We received many positive comments upon it, especially how it emerged from the spare darkness on Good Friday to such abundant color and light on Easter morning. The gospel message of resurrection can be preached in many ways. Sometimes with words, sometimes with the environment of liturgy, and always by God with the glorious cycles of nature.

If you would like to help us sustain the resurrection garden throughout the Easter season which is 50 days long, we could use your help. As the flowers lose their blooms, we want to replace them, either with other flowers or green plants. Of course, plants you bring would be yours to reclaim whenever – after a week or two. Joel and I hope to purchase some plants for our garden and lend them to the sanctuary for a while. The garden has meant a lot to the many who have been grieving lately. We have another funeral service after church on May 7th for a Belfast native, Sharon Fuller. A close friend of many of our members and former star field hockey player on Allen Holmes' team, we are told that she would just love the garden as she did all the outdoors. I would like to keep it beautiful and full of life, as is the whole church! Let me know if you can help. And don't forget to come and sit in the garden!

Wishing you the joys and blessings of this season!

Kate