

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Spring is a time of promise. It is a time of potential. It is the same for the church and this congregation. It is the same for us and those around us. Will the promise be fulfilled? Will things grow? Will they thrive and prosper? Much will depend on our faithfulness and willingness to act and to nurture. There is nothing so abundant or so sad as unfulfilled potential.

Spring is a time of emergence. It is a time when that which has been hidden comes out to be seen. The flowers and plants that have been dormant begin to show signs of life and renewal. Flower buds begin to poke from the earth where they have laid dormant. Leaves begin to fill the trees and new growth begins to bud. Animals and birds, which have been scarcely visible during the winter, come out of hiding and begin to romp and frolic, showing their joy at the warmth and sunshine that spring brings. Spring is the time when we are called to emerge. The events of Passion Week move us from sorrow and despair as we experience Jesus suffering and death to joyous wonder as we celebrate as Jesus emerges from the tomb. In what tomb do you languish? Are you ready to have the stone rolled back and to be resurrected so that you can emerge with new life? Will that life be one of helping others find the light of salvation? Will you grow and bear fruit or will you wither on the branch of unfulfilled potential?

We are no longer in a “purple” time, a time of waiting. We are in a “red” season, a season where we come alive and are set afire. Pentecost is coming. The Holy Spirit is ready to set us on fire and stir us to action. We know what our gifts are. We have committed to working on Ministry Teams. Opportunities are beginning to show. We need to capitalize on the opportunities that will come our way in the days ahead. Are we ready and willing to take advantage of those opportunities? Will we live up to and maximize the potential? Will we turn potential into results? As a congregation, are we ready to emerge from our doldrums and winter of preparation to new and exciting learning opportunities and ministries? Or have we consigned ourselves to the tomb of the sanctuary, afraid to come out and enjoy the sunlight and the challenge of growth that it brings. Are we ready to take advantage of opportunities that this time of “newness” offers?

This spring God is calling you to allow the stone that has made your heart a tomb, to be rolled back and to allow the sunshine of spring to penetrate the deepest recesses. You are to emerge from the darkness and confinement and move into the freedom and calling that God has for you. We are not to hide and atrophy but to be seen and make a difference.

We are to get excited and then share that excitement, the Good News of Christ’s resurrection and the love and promise

that represents. You are to realize your potential and in time, bring an abundant harvest. May the “ordinary” time that follows Pentecost be anything but ordinary. This year, may spring be followed by a summer that is filled with activity. The garden must be made tilled and planted. The garden must be watered. Let us take the next couple of weeks to cultivate and fertilize our potential, to set our plans so that when the Spirit moves us we can spring into action. The potential for a great harvest next fall is here but we must embrace the spring and work through the summer if the crop is to be there for us to harvest. The seasons come and go. Winter is gone. Spring is here. You have potential. Commit to rebirth and growth. God will provide the soil. The Church will nurture you. Will you produce fruit?

Yours in Service to Christ

Pastor John

Rev. John W. Landis

Designated Pastor