

## 03-21-18 Wednesday Musings

Another week, another brush with winter. But we are now officially in Spring, and as garden flowers attest, better weather is on the way – as is our celebration of Holy Week. This Sunday will mark the start of that sacred season and our Palm/Passion Sunday service will be special. Focused on the “Seven Last Words of Christ,” the service will include special music that the choir has been hard at work on, as well as seven brief meditations that Mack Painter and I will be reading. Invite a friend to join you. It should be a meaningful service.

Then I hope you have your calendars marked for our joint three-church Maundy Thursday service at First Reformed UCC where we will be joined by members of Life’s Journey UCC. There will be no meal this year. Gather in their sanctuary for a service that will begin at 6:30 pm and will focus on the story of Jesus’ Passion and will include a celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Following this service, we will have our annual Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 am on April 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a breakfast hosted by the Board of Deacons. In case of rain (or snow!) we will meet in the sanctuary. Please note that there will be no Sunday School or after-church reception on Easter. However, plan to gather at 10:30am that morning for our celebration of the Resurrection – again with special music.

I know that this is a busy time of the year for many but let me remind you of a special speaker that will be at First Reformed this Friday and Saturday, theologian John Dominic Crossan. For more details, call the church at 336-226-7346.

On the prayer concern front, several people who had been dealing with health issues returned to church this past Sunday. After being out for three Sunday’s, I was able to return to preach and lead worship. The healing process continues to be slow, but I’m making progress. Thanks for all your prayers and support.

After a brief hospitalization, Anna Gerow was able to rejoin us on Sunday, as were Harvey Sharpe and Frances Morgan. Nancey Simmons continues to make progress with her foot and was singing in the choir once more.

Peggy reports that Troy Johnson has gotten approval from his doctor to start driving. He is also cleared to lift a limited amount of weight and, perhaps most importantly to him, he no longer needs to sleep on his back!

Mark Garrison continues to have some difficulties following his recent surgery, and Mollie Blum has also had some blood sugar issues. In addition to all of these, please continue to keep in prayer: Shirley Perry, Donna Freeman, Nancy Thomas and Vera Reeder.

Hope to see you Sunday.

*Mark*