

March 20, 2016

Palm Sunday Message from Rev. William P. Worley PSEC Conference Minister

There's a lot going on when Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It amazes me how he heads right into the belly of the beast. From his time in Gethsemane, we also know that he's not exactly thrilled about it. There's a deep pain there.

And, Jesus isn't just heading towards those who plot his death. He also goes to Jerusalem to fail his followers. He moves towards confrontation, pain, and the reality that he would let down those who had laid so many expectations upon him. He went anyway.

Brené Brown, in her book [Daring Greatly](#), writes about how creativity and living fully requires vulnerability. If we're going to do great things we need to be willing to dare to do great things. This demands us to bear risk: risking failure, disappointing others and disappointing ourselves.

Jesus is the icon of many great things, but he is the perfect image of a life lived without shame. Jesus does not begin with the sick assumption that he is not enough; that he needs more friends or more "likes" on Facebook.

If Jesus approached life like most of us, he'd be crushed—internally pulverized from all the rejection and persecution.

In this sense, Palm Sunday is a microcosm of his ministry: the brief attention of a multitude, which quickly leads to the rejection of the same multitude.

To brave that takes a huge heart. To brave that and still be in love with those who reject him—and be willing to die for them? That's the stuff of which miracles are made.

But, Jesus shows us that disappointment doesn't have to have the last word.

In fact, disappointment can walk out of a tomb and shatter the present powers of this world.

Jesus is enough.
 And so are we.

Getting to Know:

Brownback's UCC

656 Ridge Road, Spring City PA 19475



The clarion call of the Reformation of the Church in the 16th century was that we find salvation by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. At Brownback's UCC, we are faithful to our Reformed forebears in this belief, as we live out our faith in the 21st century, celebrating 275 years of ministry in 2018. As our mission we see ourselves as God's people, followers of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. We praise God's greatness through worship and

celebration; build a spiritual family on friendship, caring, and love; teach all to follow the Way of Christ; and serve Christ by offering hope and support to our neighbors in need. We welcome all to join us on our journey of faith.



In Spring/Summer of 2015 we began our Community Garden to provide fresh fruit and vegetables for the area's hungry. By autumn of 2015 we harvested more than 1,000 pounds of food to the Spring City Food Pantry and the Good Samaritan Shelter for Homeless Men in Phoenixville. Volunteers from our church have also worked with the homeless day shelter at Trinity Reformed UCC in Pottstown on Saturdays during the winter season. Our mission support includes Bethany Children's Home, the Good Samaritan Shelters, the Pottstown Cluster of Churches, Samaritan's Purse, and area food banks.

Brownback's UCC is small enough to be friendly, yet large enough to provide a beautiful setting for worship, blending together liturgy and instrumental and choral music from our pipe organ, bell choirs, soloists, and Chancel Choir. The sermons are not only "good news" but relate to modern life. Children are an important part of the life of Brownback's UCC - including our worship, participating in the children's sermon, then in worship play, a lectionary based age-appropriate discussions and activities. Our Youth Group recently combined with youth from two other UCC churches and meet twice monthly.



Brownback's UCC is a warm and welcoming community of faith. We are diverse in age and background, but share a common commitment to follow Christ together as we growth together in word and sacrament, Christian education, fellowship, and service.

Prayers are requested for Brownback's UCC in Spring City and Rev. Raymond J. Jachowski.

