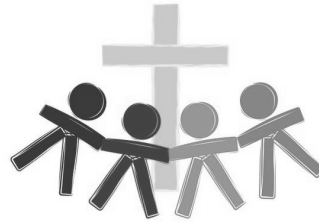




April 9, 2017

Communitas Taking a New Direction

The church highlighted in the Prayer Partner section of Communitas on April 2nd completed our 3 year rotation of honoring churches within our conference.



Going forward we will be taking a break from the church Prayer Partner traditional presentations and are asking churches to submit articles on unique things that they are doing. We want to hear, and share, the ways you are touching your communities, touching lives, and spreading the good news of the gospel.

Now, before you starting rushing to your computers to submit articles, keep in mind that many of us do the same thing. We hold dinners and honor scouts and emergency personnel. We invite children to our Easter Egg hunts and Christmas events, *but what is it that your church is doing that is different and unique?*

How have you gone “outside the box” of traditional ministry to spread the word of God in your communities? How have you touched children and shared God’s good news? What is your church doing that isn’t being done anywhere else? We’d like to hear!

Please send your article to Sue at the PSEC office at susan@psec.org. Try to keep articles to 275 words if you are submitting (no more than) two pictures—you can write more words without pictures (but you may say more *with* them).

This will be an exciting way to share new ideas with one another and to further God’s work in our communities!

Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday

Whenever a popular rock star appears in concert or when a professional sports team wins a championship game, people get whipped into a frenzy and literally go a bit crazy. Before you know it what started out to be a celebration goes bad and there is big trouble. People are injured or killed, personal property is damaged, and what started out as fun ends up a disaster.

Palm Sunday is much like that. People hear that Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem and everyone gathers to greet him. They gather palm branches to wave. Children shout “hosanna” and it is a wonderful celebration. And yet we cannot watch this parade without a sense of doom for we know the rest of the story. That is what makes Palm Sunday a very difficult Sunday to preach. Even the church is confused. Is it Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday? Is it time to celebrate or a time to mourn? Here we are celebrating when we know that in just five days the cries of “hosanna” will change to “crucify him!” The phrase, “It is the best of times, it is the worst of times” is very appropriate for this Palm Sunday.

Christ’s journey on the road from Bethphage to Jerusalem reminds us of our Christian journeys as well. It would be nice if our life’s journey could be a journey of nothing but happy times and celebrations. It would be nice to know that if the journey became too much that we could just push a button and everything would be hunky-dory. But that is not the case, and the fact of the matter is, to reach our destination of personal healing and wholeness, to remain faithful to the demands of the Gospel, it may require us to endure our own personal passions.

Christian discipleship is hard work. There is nothing easy about it. It requires us to be obedient, dedicated and committed to the ideals of the faith. It is not a journey for the weak at heart. It is a journey that will at times call us to suffer in pain and anguish just as Jesus suffered. The passion of our Lord reminds us of the cost of discipleship.

Today is Palm Sunday and it is a day of celebration. But let us be clear as to the source of our celebration. For what we celebrate is the person of Christ; “Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.”