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The Methodist Messenger

First United Methodist Church Edinburg Texas

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ from now on
a new life has begun.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

I've been thinking/praying about this verse from 2 Corinthians, actually all of chapter 5, and what it means for me, as a disciple of Jesus. I've been asking the Lord what it means for me as a pastor and also what it means for the individuals that make up our church family. What does it mean for us as church?

Each week, month, of 2019, I've been inviting us all to press into deeper intimacy with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The more we press into Jesus, the more we are transformed into the people we were created to be. But, as I read that verse again and again, I realize that sometimes I miss my “old life.” I cling to the comfort of old habits, old sins, old ideas. There were things about the “old” me I took pride in. Things that I used to place my worth and identity in. Even though some of those things broke my heart, made me a miserable person for others to deal with, I'd wrap them around me like the comfort of old favorite blanket I could hide under.

As I've prayed, God has been kind in answering. God doesn't want to strip us of who we are – God wants to reveal and empower us to embrace our true selves, our better selves. The word “holy” can be frightening and intimidating, but that is what God is doing – making us holy. When we accept new life, our new life in Christ, we are free to let go the “old life” that

stifled and held us back. We are free.

One of the questions we should ask ourselves in our journey of faith in Jesus, our relationship with God, our discipleship is, “What have I been freed, saved, for? What has God meant for great and wonderful things in the name of Jesus? There are more than the things you've ever done. There are more of His love, His grace, His songs by Branford Marsalis, a song titled “I'm Not Who I Was Before” I'm not who I was before, let alone 10 minutes ago. My breath is an opportunity to be transformed more into the likeness of Jesus.

You have a purpose, a mission, gifts to share. You are called into the Kingdom of Heaven. You are doing great things for yourself and for us, to do, to participate in more than anything else. In all things, God works through us. We accept how much God loves you. You matter not because of what you might do, but because of what God loves you without hesitation, no matter the circumstance. If you have accepted Christ, it is not because of what you might do, it is because of what God has said, “yes” to you. You are a new creation, a person transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, because you have chosen to extravagantly love. God pours out love

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Spaghetti Dinner on Friday,
ship choir members Tori
Gomez, Niko De La Garza
Lloyd Webber. Come
adway classics such as
“Memory” and more!
soon! All proceeds will go
gram.



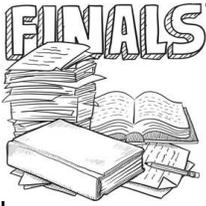
Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser

Encountering the Risen Christ!

What happens after Easter? What does it mean for the disciples and for us to be a people of the Resurrection? Starting April 28th, Pastor Michelle will teach a 6 week sermon series about how Jesus met and taught his disciples after the Resurrection. Come be part of the conversation!

Graduate Luncheon

There will be a potluck luncheon honoring graduates (high school and college) on May 19 at noon, after the 11 am service. They should plan to bring their families and a favorite teacher, if possible. Prospective graduates should contact Jane Wilke (956-383-5764) or the church office. You don't want to be left out!



Finals are already coming up! Help us treat our college students during the end-of-semester crunch. See the poster in the entryway for a slip to include with \$10 or a Starbucks card to place in the offering.

Thank you to all the people who made Easter worship a beautiful experience!



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If you own a family, we underwrite single issues will acknowledge card in the



Office Monday

God Bless You

