



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor's Page – March, 2016

Resurrection Reigns!

*"I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was **raised to life three days later...**" - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

Jesus was dead. But then God reached into that dark, cold, still tomb and resurrected his Son. None but God had a hand in it. Our faith rests on this belief. You might say Easter was the day of Jesus' re-birth. He was and is the First-born from the dead. So far he is the only one. But one day that will change.

Five years ago, my birthday fell on Easter Sunday. It got me to reflect on the mystery of being born a mortal human being who was then been re-born a Child of God who will never die. Whether it's your birthday or not, Easter changes everything. The empty tomb separates the history of humankind, of creation, and of the universe—into two. Before Easter, death reigned. Afterward, death no longer reigned. As Paul said in his letter to the Romans, death died when Jesus was raised to life.

The promise for us who died with Jesus at our baptism is that we need not worry any longer about dying. With Christ, we've already died to sin and death. Now we who live in him by faith have eternal life. Eternal life does not start when we die physically.

Baptism marks the beginning of Eternal life. Eternal life is **now**. It only becomes fuller, richer, and more real when we die physically.

Resurrection is related to eternal life, but it's not the same. Resurrection will be ours when Christ returns for his Church on the Last Day. That's when we will be re-born, raised to resurrection life. We will receive resurrection bodies. These are the bodies that allow us to take our seat at the heavenly banquet and live eternally with God.

This Easter, birthday or not, I hope you experience the joy and excitement of Jesus' rebirth from death. By faith, may you celebrate the resurrection that will be yours when Christ returns for this Church.

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Happy Easter! *Pastor Pat*