

Happy Easter!

This week I heard an interesting point about Jesus. That is, if he had not risen from the dead, we would never even know his name! Roman crucifixion was considered so horrible, and so incredibly shameful, that no one ever wrote about anyone who was executed that way - until Jesus. We know there were plenty of crucifixions before Jesus, but we don't know the names of the victims or any of their details. Very little was ever mentioned or described because the point was to make it so terrible that the person who was executed would be forgotten, their memory covered up to save their family or community from shame.

Something very different happened with Jesus - something so astonishing, so impossible, that this crucified man has been **remembered** for 2000 years! You can't "prove" to someone that Jesus rose from the dead, but you can definitely see that something remarkable happened that first Easter - something that changed Roman history and changed the world.

This week during our 10am worship on Sunday we'll have a special Easter message by video from Pastor Barbara. After worship we'll hide Easter eggs for any little kids who come - and for each other! After the egg hunt, we'll all have lunch together on the church patio. No class this Sunday.

if you can't make it to in-person worship, watch this <u>video of Luke 24</u> and read <u>Luke 24</u> for yourself.

Ask yourself: Did this really happen? What is the evidence? Were there any eye witnesses? What did Jesus do in people's lives that made them believe? What happened that was so unusual that people would remember and worship a crucified man?

Also consider: Who witnessed to *you* about Jesus? Why do *you* believe? Who can you tell the good news to? Is there anything getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus?

Bible verse: Luke 24:45 says "Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures." The disciples saw Jesus risen from the dead and they believed and

spread the good news. But the Holy Spirit also reminds us of who Jesus is and what he says! If we take time to read the Bible, Jesus will open our minds too. That's pretty awesome!

Spend some time with Jesus today... And have fun! Easter is the best.

With love,

--Sharon R.