**Food for thought:** *When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the scriptures to us?”* - Luke 24: 30-32

Worship, bible study, the sacraments, and the sermon are all ways that Christ speaks to us through the Holy Spirit. These are examples of conversation times with God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They require us to both express our concerns, praises and needs with God and to listen to God’s commands, direction and blessings for our lives.

Scripture is the thing that ties all these examples together. Like the disciples said, “Were not our hearts burning within us… while He was opening the scriptures to us?” When we commit ourselves to conversing with God on day to day basis, it starts with scripture and prayer. The more we are open to conversations with God during the week, the more we have to gain from worship and on Sundays.

As a part of sermon preparation, it is important to read the texts for the coming Sunday throughout the week. I wonder what this spiritual practice of the preacher would do as a spiritual practice for the hearer. If the sermon is meant to be a conversation between God, the pastor and the people, then ought not we all have read up on the same topic?

Each week, the coming week’s texts are printed on the bottom of the back page of the scripture insert in your bulletins. As Easter is the time for new beginnings, let us enter into this new spiritual practice for more meaningful conversations.

**Blessing of Seeds and Soil-** Sunday, May 4th, we will be having a blessing of seeds and soil during worship in the sanctuary as well as immediately after worship in the garden. Joan Fumetti, a representative from Foods Resource Bank, is planning to join us for this service. There will also be a potluck on this day, after which we will be planting the garden (weather permitting). Please, come and join us for some or even all of the activities on this day.

**Serving at Café in Dubuque-** On Thursday, May 22nd, I will be leading a group to help in serving a meal at the 1st Congregational Church in Dubuque. This is the meal site every Thursday for Dubuque’s daily free meals, open to anyone in the community. If you are interesting being a volunteer for this service project, look for the sign-up sheet and add your name to it.

**Ascension Day-** This day celebrates Jesus’ ascension into heaven forty days after the resurrection. Thursday, May 29th, at 5:30 p.m. the annual service will be held at Cere’s Pioneer Rock Church. Anyone is welcome to attend and the service is followed by a potluck at St. Peter.

**Saturday Service in the Park-** Saturday, May 31st, Peace will have an evening service at 5 p.m. at the pavilion by the boat landing in Clayton. There will be no service in the church building on Sunday, June 1st. Anyone is welcome to join us for this worship serve and Holy Communion.

Peace & Blessings,

Pr. Hillary