

A vintage-style tufted sofa with a dark wood frame and light-colored upholstery is positioned in a field of sunflowers. The sunflowers are in full bloom, with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers. The background is a soft-focus field of more sunflowers under a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The sofa is the central focus, with its curved back and tufted cushions clearly visible.

When
my spirit is faint,
you know my way.

PSALM 142:3, NRSV

First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street, Eden, NC April 20, 2022

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



EDEN, NC

Doug Diamond – Pastor

And just like that, it's all over. The bunnies and plastic eggs are put away for another year. The chocolate has been eaten. The last pieces of leftover ham sit drying out in the back corner of the refrigerator. The beautifully decorated hard boiled eggs, peeled, their yolks mixed with mustard and mayo and refilled have all been devoured. The cantata has been sung. All the trappings of Easter are that quickly gone. But one thing remains. The empty tomb. All the details, the decorations, the celebrations – those things don't really matter. What matters is Christ, Him crucified and resurrected from the dead.

On the day of Christ's resurrection, two disciples – Cleopas and maybe his wife, who was likely at the foot of the cross (see John 19:25) – were walking on the road, heading toward their home in Emmaus. As they walked, they were talking together about what had happened over the past few days. When Jesus came to walk with them, they shared their pain and heartache. And after chastising them a little for being hard headed, he reminded them of prophecy and demonstrated that he was the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Jesus was able to enter that conversation because they were having a conversation. They were talking about what Jesus had done. They were ready to hear directly from him.

We need to ready ourselves. We need to have conversations among ourselves about what Jesus has done for us. We need to share with one another how the Holy Spirit moves in our lives. We are sometimes hesitant to have these conversations, even with fellow believers. But we need to have those conversations so that we are prepared to have conversations with those who need to hear the gospel. And it is when we have those conversations that Jesus will join in.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;.

Luke 24:13-15

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Staying sharp

The English word *character* comes from Greek for a sharp-pointed instrument. Much of this original meaning is implied in the word as we use it, for isn't character the means by which we make an impression on the world? To be sure, the instrument itself is not a finished product [but] a mere tool; but, like many a fine instrument, character improves with use. Our actions and reactions temper the blade and make the edge powerful or impotent. We each must forge our own character, be responsible for keeping it in condition and be responsible for its results.

—Author unknown

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730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

Office phone: (336) 627-7063 - Email: eden1stcob@gmail.com

Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Carolyn Combs,
Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin,
Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta
Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon &
Gail Walker, Danny Whitley

Thinking of You

Pam Bradshaw

District Prayer Request

Pray for Jason D. Pratt, who has served ten years as pastor of the Fairview Church of the Brethren in Floyd County, Virginia. Let us pray that we will embrace anew the ministry of proclamation in word and deed wherever we are.

“Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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The Witness Commission is still collecting food for the Rockingham County Food Drive during the month of April.

This drive benefits 8 local agencies including Cooperative Christian Ministries, Hands of God and the Salvation Army Food Pantries in Eden and Reidsville. Please help them meet their goal of 50,000 pounds of food. Any nonperishable food will be accepted, but **recommendations for the week of April 24th are: Backpack program items (nabs, Ramen noodles, individual peanut butter, Jell-O/pudding cups, fruit cups, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, cup-a-soup, granola bars, individual mac & cheese, canned or bagged fruit & nuts, trail mix, raisins)**. There are boxes by the church entrances for you to place the items you wish to donate.

Thank you for all your donations!

Emmaus

On the road to Emmaus, one sad day,
Two men fared forth from Jerusalem way;
Strange things had occurred and a dream was torn
From their unschooled hearts which left them forlorn.

That's the old story, but wayfaring men
Must meet the same test again and again;
Visions demolished... dreams left behind
In rock-sealed tombs ... disillusioned and blind,
Unaware that beyond the highway's turn
Lies Emmaus, and yet their cold hearts burn
With the knowledge that suffering must be,
And before each crown there's a Calvary.
Eyes opened by faith then have their reward;
They behold the face of the risen Lord!

-Myra Brooks Welch

Upcoming Birthdays

April 25: Ellen Furstenberg

April 26: Marie Priddy

