

MINDFUL MONDAY APRIL 8TH

²¹“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:21-23

Jesus stood in the presence of his followers letting them see that he had returned. Jesus showed them that God was bigger than death. If we think about how Jesus was received by the disciples it might be easy for us to say, of course they knew it was Jesus, of course they believed. But in reality, wouldn't they be a little skeptical? If Jesus stood in our presence today, wouldn't we feel a bit like Thomas? As Rev. Lisa Grace pointed out in her message, Thomas gets a bad rap for his doubting, but wouldn't you want to see too? Isn't that why his followers came to see Jesus and witness this miracle? Many of his followers had locked up their doors and hid, afraid of death themselves. As soon as Jesus' return was known, they put aside these fears to come and see and believe. This immense need to witness and be with the community of believers was stronger than the fears of retaliation.

As a believer in today's world, we will never be able to witness the return of Jesus after his resurrection. We can only recount and relive the story through scripture. We gather weekly in our church buildings to worship, learn, and be a community of faith. We gather with others that believe and feel the same as we do. We know the purpose of everyone here. But what about outside the walls of the church? How do we bring the community of our church into the community of Mitchellville? As our denomination declares that we are Disciples Together, are we together only within the structure of our buildings? Are we able to extend our faith and God's love and build our community outside of these walls? As we pray today let us pray about what could be. Let us ask for guidance and wisdom on ways to build our “Ville”age. Let us pray for ways to bring together believers, even though we “*have not seen and yet have come to believe.*”

²⁶“A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” John 20:26-29

Our church service was small today and so we pray for those that were not able to be there today. We pray for those traveling, those gone with illness, or those with other things happening today. Although we were small in numbers, we welcomed guests today, had fellowship together, and had our All Church meeting.

We pray for the joy of new life. Jace Hall was welcomed by Shelby Borst and Shane Hall a week ago. We give thanks for his arrival and good health. Prayers of joy for Tammi and Steve Dillavou as they welcome their first grandson.

We pray for the members on our prayer list. Candy, Jerry & Bea, Craig, Floyd & Dona, Lorraine, Judy, Joanne, and Virginia. We pray for their health and for them to feel the community of our church even when they are not able to join us.

We join our Region in praying for those on the prayer calendar this week.

United Church of Diagonal, Diagonal, IA, Rodney Glazebrook

Davis Street Christian Church, Ottumwa, IA, Terry Wise, Interim

Joy Linn, Bryan Feille, Joshua Patty

Disciples Home Missions – these are located around the United States and change to go where there is need. More info available at Homeland Ministries