

NEW BEGINNINGS

Welcome

Are you ready for Easter? Our current circumstances will surely make Easter 2020 a memorable experience with physical distancing. The Good News is that God is never far away and offers His constant presence. And the promise that Easter reveals remains stable even if the experience will be quite different this year. We hope Jesus' resurrection will bring new life possibilities to you and your family. To that end, we are inviting you to an online forum on facebook live. Join us in the journey of spiritual renewal through these disorienting times. God is with us.

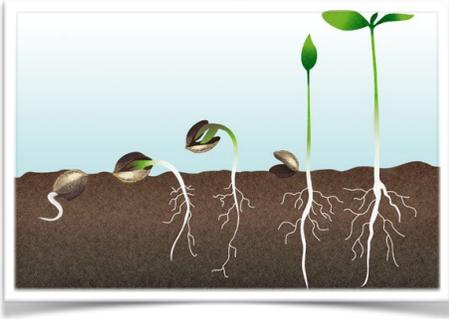
A Family Activity

Our church office carport will have a drive/walk through pick up of items (pea plants, pots, soil etc) on Wed-/Thursday Apr. 8th & 9th @ 10 AM-2 PM so together we can experience an exciting 50 day renewal.



An Easter Invitation to You for 50 Days of Counting

For 2,000 years, followers of Jesus have remembered his dramatic story of resurrection from the dead. What may be surprising to learn is that Easter is the *Beginning* of God's big resurrection story.. In the biblical calendar, God's people began counting days in a progression from our Easter toward what is called the day of Pentecost — the conclusion of a 50 day spiritual journey. If we begin counting the days on Easter, we will arrive at Pentecost on Sunday May 31st. Agriculturally, the period of Easter to Pentecost is the crucial spring growing season; a dead winter gives way to radiant bursts of new life. But spring is also a risky time for farming: wind, rain, hail, heat. Crops need a



This Week ...

- Pick up your family activity supplies under the church carport on Wed/Thursday (April 8-9th) from 10 AM to 2 PM. 1 per person or family.
- Dig deeper into fertile spiritual soil by reading your Bible. Matt. 28:1-20; John 19:38-20:10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23.
- Invite someone to join you in this 50 day journey as we discuss our deepest fears and hopes. *Facebook live, Sundays at 10 AM on Merrick Drive Church of Christ's page.*
- *Get your hands dirty.* Plant a small garden. Or plant a tree this week and watch it grow over the years – reminder that God grows our souls longterm.
- Ask questions:
 - How does God grow seeds?
 - What is my role in God's growth? (as adult, parent, neighbor etc)
 - Can I trust God? How can I be confident in my trust?
 - What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

certain amount of each to thrive while too much or too little can be devastating. The spring season is a rich experience in learning and relearning trust in God the Grower. So, for the next 7 weeks, we ask you to join us in watching God awaken the earth along with our spirits to thrive in a time of uncertainties. Even today, with all the crazy unpredictable episodes of battling a deadly virus, God is growing new life — we open our eyes to daily see God's presence ... together.

[#AwakenMDCOC](#)

A Prayer

Lord, I long to experience your growing presence over the next 50 days during these unpredictable times as we face anxious times. Grow my spirit of trust as I learn to lean upon You and increase the fruit of your Spirit in my life: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness & Self Control (Gal. 5:22-26).

