



FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated to worshipping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors". We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.



**New England Annual Conference
Tri-State District**

The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. James McPhee, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801

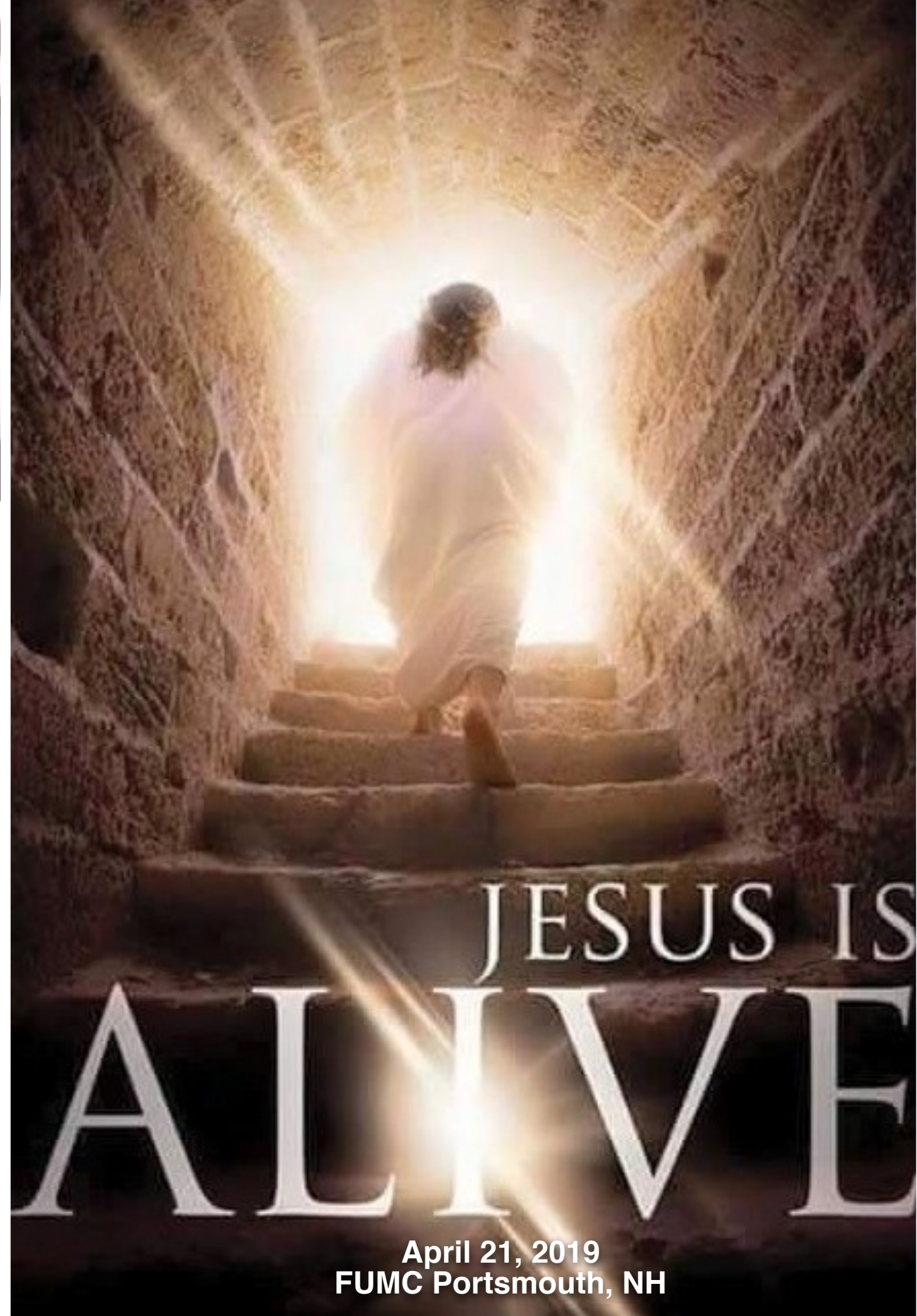
Office Phone 603-436-6038 office@fumcportsmouth.net

Pastor office hours - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 12 pm
[call to ensure availability]

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Check out our website at www.fumcportsmouth.com

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**April 21, 2019
FUMC Portsmouth, NH**

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Celebrations

***Call to Worship**

L: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen, indeed!

L: Let all the earth proclaim the joy!

P: Let all heaven show forth in praise.

L: Alleluia!

P: Alleluia!

***Hymn:** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," v. 1,2,3,4 UMH #302

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Prayer (unison)

Christ the Lord is Risen today! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life. Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to serve you by serving others. In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

Sung Response

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God", v. 1 UMH #420

Ministry of Music

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word: Luke 24:1-12

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message: "Believing is Seeing" Rev. Deb Hanson

We Respond to God's Word

***Hymn:** "Thine Be The Glory" UMH #308

Concerns and Joys

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Gratitude Moment

John VanReenen

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology:** (*Please join in singing the following:*) UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

***Hymn:** "Up from the Grave He Arose" UMH #322

***Choral Benediction** (*Congregation encircles the Sanctuary*)

May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.

***Pastor's Charge**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal TFWS = The Faith We Sing
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters

Welcome!

Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshipping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

Rev. Deb Hanson



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson
Pastor's Assistant - David Richards
Liturgist - John VanReenen
Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek
Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal
Acolyte - PennySue Orr
Greeters - Marilyn Stebbins, Anne & Mike Coffey
Ushers - Yvonne Griffin, Ken Young, Anne & Mike Coffey
Sunday School - Children in Church
Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek
Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott
Photographer - Dave Atkinson

Sermon Skit participants:

Dave Atkinson – Deck O Rate
Yvonne Griffin – Bea Z Shopper
Rev. Deb Hanson – Pastor Reporter
Alexa Langs – Mary of Galilee
PennySue Orr – Mary Magdalene
Dave Richards – Skep T Cal
Sue Richards – Chris Tian

"If you seek Me early
and diligently, you
will find Me."

Proverbs 8:17

Gayle Gardei
Marion Collishaw
Sue Goodhue
Hunter Pinkley
Sylvia Bartlett
Brian Thompson
Malia Broe
Gil Stebbins
Rev. Bill Gardei
Woodie Lange
Roseanne
Rev. David Kerr
Jim New
Kim Hishop
Bobbie Noble

Barbara & Jim Slater
Barbara Sylvester
Pauline Boynton
Barbara Millar
Irene Derosier
Barbara Clement
Joette MacKenzie
Vicky Fernandez
Alissa Fernandez
Art Munson
Gabor [Brianna's father in-law]
Pastor Sue Ellery
Judy Doyon
Charles Gilman
Our Church Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you to those that helped make the “Spring Clean-Up” successful. If you weren’t able to participate that day, there are many jobs left to be completed. Please see David Richards for a list or how to pay for a task to be done.

There will be a **Pampered Chef Party** held in Sanborn Hall on May 4th at 1:00. Please contact Sue Sarosiek or Melanie Berry for more details.

ALL are welcome!

GRATITUDE SUNDAY - MAY 5TH

Our [retiring] District Superintendent Jim McPhee will be joining us for Worship and Luncheon. Please mark your calendars to be part of the service.

Tri-State Lay Servant Ministry Classes offered. See bulletin board in Sanborn Hall for more information.

Offering envelopes are available on the kitchen counter for those that would like them.

Today’s altar flowers are in thoughtful preparation and celebration of our Risen Savior.



THANK YOU

Our **40 DAY 40 ITEMS Lent Challenge** ends today. Thank you for all your generous donations that will “GIVE HOPE” to those in our community who need it the most.

SFP CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT **Monday, June 3rd at Pease Golf** **Course...Open to all!**

Win a Subaru Assent courtesy of Exeter Subaru. Silent auction, games, history of golf hole special and more.

1 PM shotgun and includes dinner and silent auction. \$125 per golfer [includes cart]. Buffet dinner and your friends and family can join for \$25 each. Registration underway on seacoastfamilypromise.org

NEW CHALLENGE - THE SWING FOR SEACOAST CHALLENGE open to all area faith communities. Teams of four golfers...the faith community team that comes in first place will receive the SWING FOR SEACOAST trophy and a \$100 gift certificate to Cafe Nostimo.





SERMON GIVEN 4/21/19 BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“Believing is Seeing” – 4/21/2019
First UMC – Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:1-12

THEME: Believe and you will see.

CHARACTERS:

Pastor Reporter (PR) – from WPFM-TV, channel 29 (*Rev Deb*)

Mary Magdalene (MM) and Mary of Galilee (MG) – Just passing through this century, gives pastor card; both are wearing shawl type scarves (*MM = Penny Sue, MG = Alexa*)

Bea Z. Shopper (BZS) – dressed up in a new Easter outfit (*Yvonne*)

Deck O Rate (DOR) – covered with Easter decorations (*Dave A*)

Skep T Cal (STC) – dressed in a business suit or similar (*Dave R*)

Chris Tian (CT) – dressed to go to church – regular clothing (*Sue R*)

PR:

Good morning everyone. This is Pastor Reporter of **WPFM-TV, channel 29** coming to you live on this glorious Easter morning from the **Portsmouth, NH First United Methodist Church**. We have two very special guests this morning to begin our show. Mary Magdalene and Mary of Galilee who are just passing through this century on their way to spreading the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.

Good morning Mary and Mary! Do you have a moment to stop and speak with me?

(The two Mary’s pause and stop, looking at each other to nod.)

MM: Yes, I believe we can take time to talk with you. The news we have to share is for everyone.

MG: It is news that needs to be spread throughout the world!

PR: Well, we can certainly help with that. Our news broadcast reaches quite a few homes.

MM: Wonderful!

MG: That will help tremendously.

PR: I understand that you two were among the first at the tomb on the first Easter morning. What was that like for you?

MM: It was scary at first. We saw the angel descend and flashes of lightning all around us. The guards froze in place.

MG: We didn’t know what to think, especially when the angel rolled the stone away from the opening of the tomb. We just fell down on our faces and were afraid to look.

PR: That must have been frightening. What happened then?

MM: The next thing we knew, the angel was talking to us! He told us to stop being afraid and listen.

MG: He assured us that Jesus was not there and invited us to look at the empty grave. *(She begins to weep at the memory.)*

PR: I can tell that was very moving for you.

MM: Words cannot describe the confusion we felt. We were both afraid and joyful at the same time. In many ways we were afraid to believe what the angel told us.

MG: It was too wonderful to understand!

PR: And what was the message?

MM: We have this card that we are handing out to everyone as a reminder of the message.

MG: *(Handing PR the card.)* Would you like to have one?

PR: Oh, yes. That would be great! Thanks!

MM: Well, we must be moving on.

MG: It was nice meeting you.

PR: But what about the message?

BOTH MARY’S: Just read the card!

PR: *(Opens the card to look inside, smiles, closes the card, and turns to see the next person arriving.)*

PR: Here comes someone else. Let’s see if we can talk with her. Hello! I’m Pastor Reporter from **WPFM-TV, channel 29**. Do you have a moment to interview with me?

BZS: Oh! A camera! Oh my! You want to interview me? Oh my goodness! How does my hair look? *(She primps for the camera.)*

PR: Just fine. May I ask your name?

BZS: Bea. Bea Z. Shopper.

PR: Nice to meet you Bea. I’ll only take a moment. We are asking people how they are spreading the Good News. Do you have any comment?

BZS: Well, any occasion to dress up is good news for me. I have been shopping for weeks to find a new dress for Easter.

PR: Oh really?

BZS: Yes. It has to be the right color, for spring, of course. You know, the fall colors just don’t go well when we start having warmer weather.

PR: I heard that somewhere.

BZS: Well, anyway, I have been looking for simply ages.

PR: And?

BZS: I finally found the perfect outfit. *(She twirls around for PR to admire.)* What do you think?

PR: It’s very nice, but . . . how are you sharing the Good News?

BZS: *(Stops to stare at PR disgustedly.)* Haven’t you been listening to me?

PR: Yes, I have, but . . .

BZS: Well, I just told you!

PR: Told me what?

BZS: How I’m sharing the good news. I found the perfect outfit – that’s good news!

PR: *(Holds out the card.)* Would you like to see the card?

BZS: No time! Bye! *(She flounces off.)*

PR: *(Stares after her for a moment with her mouth open, then realizes that she is live on camera.)* Well . . . *(regroups)* . . . where were we? Oh yes, Good News! Ah, here comes another person. Let’s try this one. Excuse me. My name is Pastor Reporter, and I am broadcasting live from **WPFM-TV, channel 29**. Do you have a moment?

DOR: *(Has Easter decorations all over him.)* Well, I only have a moment. This is a very busy day, and I still have to set up the Easter Egg Hunt.

PR: I promise to take only a moment of your time.

DOR: I guess I can spare a moment.

PR: Would you say your name for the viewing audience?

DOR: Deck. Deck O. Rate, to be exact.

PR: Thank you, Deck. We are asking the question, “How are you sharing the Good News?”

DOR: Well, we had good news today.

PR: And what is that?

DOR: We were expecting about thirty guests for Easter dinner today, but my cousin and his family aren’t going to be able to be there.

PR: Okay . . .

DOR: (*Pauses and hesitates slightly, then in a conspirator voice says*) Do you want me to be honest?

PR: Of course.

DOR: To tell you the truth, this cousin isn't my favorite. He's kind of – well, you know – strange. They always put a damper on the celebration.

PR: So, what is your good news?

DOR: That they aren't going to be there today! Now that's good news!

PR: Maybe if you just look at this card . . .

DOR: (*Starts moving away.*) No, I don't have time, sorry. I've stayed too long as it is! I think I hear my wife hollering! Gotta go! Bye!

PR: (*Stares after him.*) Hmm. Let's try someone else. Do far, we've had some interesting answers. Here comes another person. Excuse me!

STC: Yes? What is it? (*Testily.*)

PR: My name is Pastor Reporter, and I'm broadcasting live from **WPFM-TV, channel 29** today. Do you have a moment to talk?

STC: (*Looks at watch.*) I'm not sure.

PR: I promise that it will only take a moment.

STC: I doubt that it will be only a moment, but let's give it a try.

PR: May I ask your name so the viewing audience will know who you are?

STC: (*Reluctantly.*) Skep.

PR: Your full name?

STC: Skep T. Cal.

PR: Thank you, Mr. Cal. We are asking the question, "How are you sharing the Good News?"

STC: What good news?!? You television reporters never have any good news! I haven't seen good news in years. In fact, I'm not sure there IS any good news in the world.

PR: But this is Easter. Can't you find any Good News there?

STC: Easter is just another day to exploit consumers with marshmallow chicks, baskets, stuffed rabbits, and chocolate eggs. I don't see any good news in that.

PR: But isn't Easter more than that to you?

STC: I haven’t found anything good about Easter so far, and I doubt that I ever will.

PR: Well, maybe if you look at this card . . .

STC: I told you this would take more than a moment. I don’t have any more time to talk. You will have to pick on someone else. (*Strides away in irritation.*)

PR: Ouch! I think he really needs to hear some Good News! That’s discouraging. (*Sighs.*) Well, I guess I can try one more person. Hello. I’m Pastor Reporter from **WPFM-TV, channel 29** doing live interviews this Easter morning. Do you have a moment to speak with us?

CT: (*Smiling.*) Why yes, I have a moment. It’s a beautiful morning, isn’t it?

PR: (*Brightening.*) Yes, it is beautiful! May I ask your name?

CT: Certainly. I’m Chris. Chris Tian.

PR: Nice to meet you, Chris.

CT: It’s nice to meet you, too, Pastor.

PR: This morning we are asking the question, “How are you sharing the Good News?”

CT: Oh, that’s easy!

PR: It is?

CT: Why yes! First, I’m going to church here to worship God and give thanks for the gift of God’s love in my life.

PR: Do you worship here often?

CT: Nearly every Sunday. I feel that worship connects me with God, but it also helps me to grow in my faith by connecting with others who worship.

PR: I see. So, how does worshipping help you to share the Good News?

CT: In worship, we hear the Bible read, sing songs to praise God, and we are reminded that Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins.

PR: Anything else?

CT: Oh, yes. Jesus taught us how to live the way God wants us to live through his example and his ministry on earth. Then, he was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die on the cross.

PR: How is *that* Good News?

CT: Jesus’ death on the cross opened the doors for us to receive forgiveness of sins and to begin living a new life in Christ.

PR: He did that just by dying on the cross?

CT: That was the start of it. The most important part of the Good News is that God raised him from the dead on what we now call Easter Sunday. Every Sunday is a reminder of God’s wonderful gift of life through the resurrection of Jesus.

PR: Please say more.

CT: When Jesus rose from the dead, he overcame the hold that death had on us. Death is no longer the end, but the beginning of life. When we die, we only step from this earthly life to our eternal life. It’s like passing through a door from one place to another.

PR: What a wonderful gift God has given us!

CT: It is a forever gift.

PR: So, how are you sharing this Good News?

CT: *(Smiling.)* I just shared it with you, didn’t I? And I’ll share it as many people as I can!

PR: *(Hands him/her the card and he/she reads it, smiling.)* **That’s** the Good News, isn’t it?

CT: *(Holds up card to show the congregation.)* **Christ is risen! Alleluia! Jesus is alive!**

PR: Thank you so much, Chris, for being with us this morning. Happy Easter!

CT: Happy Easter to you and all of your viewing audience. Go share the Good News with others!

PR: Thanks, we have already started with the message you gave us this morning. *(Watches Chris leave.)* Well, this is Pastor Reporter signing off. Thank you for joining us this morning, and may you all share the Good News that Jesus lives and has given us the gift of eternal life through his life, death, and resurrection. *(Looks at watch.)* We will be signing off now so we can go to church this morning. Happy – and blessed – Easter to you all!