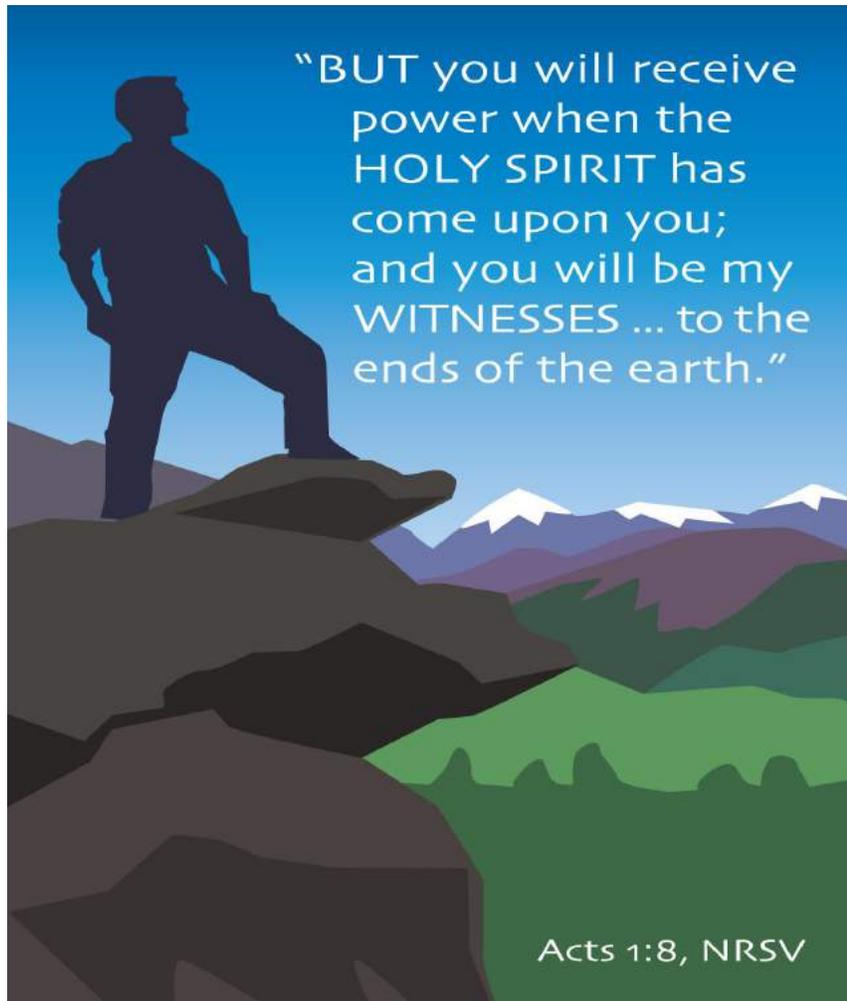


# The Herald



Volume 7, Issue 6

May 2020



“BUT you will receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT has come upon you; and you will be my WITNESSES ... to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8, NRSV

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## The Ascension challenge

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

May 2020



Dear Family of God,

I would encourage you to read Acts Chapter One and Two along with this reflection. Moments before Jesus ascends into the skies, he asks his friends to do one thing: wait.

Ugh.

Waiting is a spiritual practice. What I mean by that is quite literally, a practice of spirit. Spirit. Breath. Breathing. Waiting.

I know that I speak and write a great deal about the art of breathing.

There's a reason: when we practice paying attention to our breathing, we practice remembering our lives are in God's love.

It's the most fundamental aspect of living. The ancients knew the direct connection between life and breath.

Jesus asks his friends to take a deep breath before receiving the Holy Breath—the experience we celebrate on Pentecost.

What an understatement to say that this year is unique. And yet it matches more closely with the first Easter and Pentecost in many ways.

We are being asked to wait, beloved.

Wait before going back out in public, just like the first disciples.

Wait before gathering people in, just like the first disciples.

Wait before ministering with all cylinders firing, just like the first disciples.

Let us wait, then, with a potential energy of God building within us.

Let us practice caring for one another as we wait; praying for one another as we breathe. Soon, family of God, the mighty rushing Breath of God will fill our sanctuary, and us, once more!

With boldness and renewed energy we will proclaim the love of God as witnessed in the life of Jesus Christ.

With rejuvenated hope we will serve our community.

We will not be the same following this experience of waiting.

May it be that we rise up with wings like eagle's like never before

To care

To comfort

To heal

To give thanks

Amen

Grace to you all and Peace!

Rev. Phil

**Lectionary for May:** May 3: John 10:1-10

May 10 Mother's Day: John 14:1-14

May 17: John 14:15-21

May 24: Ascension Sunday & Heritage Sunday: John 17:1-11

May 31: Day of Pentecost: John 7:37-39

### **Bible Study News**

Please join us live on Zoom for Bible Study on either Sunday or Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:00PM where we will begin the Gospel of John. We will delve into this narrative record of who Jesus is and what he came to do. All are welcome to join in these discussions!

The link will be available on the front page of the church website [umcnorthchili.org](http://umcnorthchili.org) and sent via email in the Announcements.



## May Birthdays

5/3 Emma Nichols	5/5 Chris Hochgraf
5/9 Bob Arazy	5/12 Carol Miller
5/14 June Harndon	5/14 Lyle Tague
5/18 Allison Allen	5/18 Judy Drews
5/21 Kathy Krisher	5/23 Ellen Farnham
5/25 Kyle Kline	5/26 Anita Taft
5/27 Randy Bloechl	

## Prayer Concerns for May

**Prayers for:** Liz H, Barb O, Amen, Braden, Jean, Lisa B. & friend, Bob S, Marge, Tom, Sandra O, Donna, Gary, Maurisa, Aunt Delois, Sue J's niece, Cliff.



All those in care facilities who are now separated from their families: Gene M at Wegmans family cottages, Carol M at Fairport Baptist home, Walt P at Shorewinds, Marilyn K at Cottage Grove.

*Please keep these families who have lost loved ones in your thoughts: Sharon K family, Bob B's family.*

**Praises:** Evie O is doing much better! Roxanne's surgery went well.

Gary & Marcia Caswell, Doris Frediani, Phyllis Gordon, June Harndon, Helen Ottley, Ruth Peck, Barbara Ward, Gene Mori, Walt Palmer



Many Thanks

So grateful to all my friends at church for their support at the time of my brother's death. The number of cards and their messages was almost overwhelming. Thank you Roger Dart

## How will they know?

A well-known 1960s song by Peter Scholtes answers an implied question: How will others know we're Jesus' disciples? Not by how we understand family values. Not by our politics or theology. Not by how many Bible verses we've memorized, how often we attend church or how much offering we give. Rather, the song's title and refrain say it all: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." Jesus put it this way: "Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).

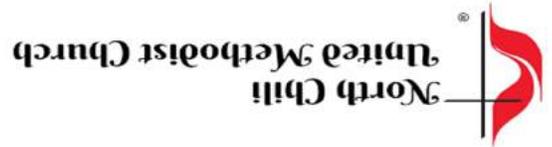
## LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

**Donations** are needed such as Dry Goods, Toiletries, Disposable razors, Shaving cream, Diapers and baby wipes, Soap & Dish soap, antiseptic hand wipes. The donations are delivered to Grace Church of the Nazarene each month to benefit people in our area who need a little help. Right now the need is great. Please call ahead to make sure Susann is there and you can leave your items at the door and ring the bell. Susann will put items on our shelves and delivery to Grace Church will be arranged.





MEMORIAL  
DAY



2200 Westside Dr., Rochester, NY 14624  
Office (585) 594-9111  
Email: [umcnorthchili@gmail.com](mailto:umcnorthchili@gmail.com)  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
[Umcnorthchili.org](http://Umcnorthchili.org)  
Rev. Dr. Phillip W. Phaneuf