



This Weekend In Worship

[Watch Service Online](#)
[Virtual Fellowship \(Saturday & Sunday\)](#)
[Sign In For Worship](#)

Scripture:

[Psalm 19:1-4a](#)
[Exodus 13:17-22](#)

This weekend, you can worship either on-line (link at normalfirst.org) or in-person. In-person worship does require pre-registration ([Register here](#)). Information about Easter worship will be coming out soon.

On this 4th weekend of Lent, we'll continue our sermon series on "Seeds of Resurrection." One interesting feature of seeds, is that they need to be planted in the soil, *in the darkness*, in order to grow. In order to grow into life, the seed first spends time in the darkness.

Every day, in the Midwest we have anywhere from 9-12 hours of darkness, or at least the possibility of that. But we may not realize that there's that much darkness because we can *light it up* with a multitude of devices and barely even experience the darkness.

So I invite you to consider what the darkness has to teach and offer us. What are we missing out on when we light up the darkness?

*There is a light that shines in the darkness,
which is only visible there.*

-Barbara Brown Taylor

In Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, she reminds us that we need to practice our skills of walking in the dark. Actually we may even need to learn new skills to help us walk in the dark. And she encourages us to not avoid learning what we can from those experiences.

Our on-line worship will include Handbell music and a choral anthem. Look forward to worshipping with you, on-line or in-person, this weekend!

Pastor Kathy

"At times I have found it difficult to believe that darkness could be a source of growth. Darkness to a child, as well as to many adults, can be a scary, fearsome place where wild creatures wait to pounce and

prey. But, in actuality, some kinds of darkness are truly our friends. The world of our mother's womb had no light: It is where we grew wonderfully and filled out our tiny limbs of life. Our earth would be quite lifeless, too, if we did not plant seeds deep within the lonely darkness of the soil so they could germinate and bring forth green shoots. I know, too, that we would soon die of an overheated planet if nightfall did not come to soothe the sunfilled land. Darkness is very essential for some aspects of growth and protection."

-"The Star in My Heart" by Joyce Rupp

A note from the Pastors:

In the event that you or a family member are hospitalized and would like to receive a visit from one of the Pastors, please let your nursing staff know or call the church office (309-452-2096).

Your pastors are able to begin visiting hospitals again, but only on a limited basis.

Pastors Kathy, Kent, and Kim

First United Methodist Church
Virtual worship service
March 13th, 5 pm
March 14th, 9:30 am

Announcements

Welcome

Prelude

"Were You There"

Arr. Kevin
McChesney

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

"God of Wonders"

Opening Prayer

Chorus

"Patience"

Children's Moment

Scripture

Psalm 19:1-4a

Word Through Music

"When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross"

Sermon

Seeds of Resurrection

Pastoral Prayer &
Lord's Prayer

Offering

Hymn of Commitment

"God, Who Stretched
the Spangled
Heavens"
vs. 1 & 4

#150

Blessing & Sending
Forth

Postlude

"Mach's mit mir, Gott,
nach deiner Güt"

Johann Gottfried
Walther