

Dear Families:

This week, we visited the Old Testament and discussed a story in Ezekiel. The prophet Ezekiel was led by God's Spirit to a valley full of bones. They were "very dry," meaning they had belonged to people that had been dead for a very, very long time. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones. As he did so, the bones began to rattle and shake. They began to come together, forming complete skeletons. The skeletons became covered with muscles and tissues. They looked like living beings, but there was no life in them. Ezekiel prophesied for the breath of God to breathe life into them, and they became living humans once again. God told Ezekiel that these bones were the people of Israel. They have no hope- like the pile of dry bones. God commanded Ezekiel to tell Israel that even though everything looks hopeless, God is coming! He will fill us with His spirit and we shall live! What a great message to prepare us for Easter!

Today is the fifth Sunday in the season of Lent. During first week of Lent, we were challenged to fast. In the second week of Lent, we were challenged to pray. During the third week, we practiced listening to God. Last week, we added the spiritual discipline of Simplifying. This week, we will practice unplugging. Distractions are EVERYWHERE. We are constantly being pulled away from God by the world. The world is constantly being thrown in our faces through electronics, social media, TV and the internet. This week, we are encouraged to turn the world off. Focus all of our attention on God. Try your best to limit, or eliminate, time spent on electronics this week.

Please continue to support the youth in their stewardship missions. There is an ongoing mini-rummage sale in Fellowship Hall. You can continue to bring in bottle slips. And the donation boxes in Fellowship Hall are always there. The bin that supports our church Blessing Box is also in constant need of items. We appreciate any and all support you can give to God! Stay tuned for a new stewardship opportunity in the coming weeks!

We will see you the next week for Palm Sunday! Join us to celebrate the holiest week of the year.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director