## **Pastor's Peace**

As the dogwoods and azaleas begin to bloom we can feel the hope of Easter in the air. Yet, we still have two more weeks of the Lenten season to endure before the celebration. We have to walk with Jesus through the trials of Holy Week and face the seeming finality of Good Friday before we can welcome the ecstasy of Easter morning. There must be death for there to be resurrection.

So it is with the rhythms and seasons of our lives. There is the barrenness of winter before the re-birth of spring. Lent is the season in the life of the church which reminds us of this, and reminds us that we need moments in the struggles and darkness of the wilderness in order to be made new and arrive with fresh perspective and new hope in the light.

So it is with organizations as well. To move forward into new seasons, there must first be the ending of others. That is why, after over 10 years serving as your Pastor, I'm confident in my choice to step aside from the position in this season so that, after a brief time in the wilderness, you – the people of MPBC – can step into a new season, with a new leader and experience new life. That is my prayer.

As we know from living in eastern North Carolina, no new season arrives all at once. Change is a process. Like the warm days we've had, followed by more mornings of frost and 30 degree swings in the temperature, new seasons are filled with glimpses of new and longer light paired with powerful pictures of the past, shadows of struggles and visions of an exciting future. New seasons are hopeful, at times fearful, and are led by and held in the hands of the One who is faithful.

As we stumble through these final weeks of Lent, we're hopeful of the joyous celebration that will be ours at Easter...but, we're not there yet. We still have questions to ask, struggles to endure and wilderness to wander. On this journey, we are not alone. God is with us and we lean on each other. I'm thankful to be walking these final weeks of Lent with you.





EASTER SUNDAY - April 17th
Easter Sunrise Service - 6am
Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist
4320 Doc Bennett Road

Children's Easter Egg Hunt - 10am Fellowship Hall - (Light breakfast)

Easter Worship - 11am





To all who have mailed or dropped off your checks or given on line.



TUESDAY, April 12th - 10:00am Super Seniors - Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, April 12th - 6:30pm Deacon's Meeting - Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, April 13th - 6:30pm <u>Business Meeting</u> - Sanctuary BY-LAWS AVAILABLE - VOTE 04/24

SUNDAY, April 24th - 9:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, April 24th- after worship MPBC Lunch Bunch Paradise Acres

THURSDAY, April 28th - 7:00pm Children's Committee & Youth Committee Meeting - ZOOM

## **SERMON, TEXTS & TITLES FOR APRIL, 2022**

APRIL 3rd, 2022 (Communion Sunday)

Text: John 12:1-8

Title: "HOPE: Passover, Perfume and the

Poor"

APRIL 10th, 2022 (PALM SUNDAY - Rev. Paula McCosh)

Text: Luke 22 & 23

Title: "HOPE: Palms and Passion"

APRIL 15th, 2022 (GOOD FRIDAY)

Text: John 19:1-30

Title: HOPE: "It is finished" - is only the beginning

**APRIL 17th, 2022 (EASTER SUNDAY)** 

Text: Luke 24:1-12 Title: "HOPE Alive"

APRIL 24th, 2022 Text: John 20:19-31 Title: "HOPE unlocked"



