

Words To Comfort & To Disturb

by Dana Allin,
Synod Executive



One of the popular statements about preaching that has stuck with me since before I was even in seminary, is that preaching is to “comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.” This can sometimes be difficult to do within the same sermon. Often times we focus on one or the other, but the resurrected Jesus was remarkable at intertwining both aspects together.

I think of Jesus appearing to his disciples in John 20:21 when He says “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” In this passage, Jesus comforts the disciples. They were understandably scared. Jesus had been crucified, and there were reports that He had been resurrected. The disciples needed the comfort and peace that only Jesus can offer. At the same time, they needed to be disturbed into action. Jesus tells them to be the sent people of God: go into the world, taking the same posture toward the world as He did on earth. The disciples had just seen the nail marks in Jesus’ hands a few verses earlier, so they had a clear visual representation of the cost to Jesus to be His sent people into the world.

We’re just a few weeks past Lent, so I pray we continue to celebrate the powerful resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and let it both comfort and disturb us. Some of you are in places where you need to hear afresh and anew Jesus’ words of comfort and peace.

Perhaps you are experiencing personal challenges and you are not sure what the future holds. Perhaps your congregation is in the midst of, or has completed, a discernment process and is in need of Jesus’ comfort and peace.

Some of you will be in places of comfort and contentment. Your challenge will be to make sure that you don’t let your contentment turn into complacency. You may need to be reminded by the Lord that you are blessed to be a blessing: that you are chosen with the purpose to be an instrument for His kingdom in the world.

My guess is that many of us, like the disciples, need both: the peace and comfort of Jesus, as well as the uncomfortable disturbance that produces growth and prompts greater action for his purposes. I pray that all of us would allow Jesus’ comforting and disturbing words to work their purposes in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Dana



Graduating Class of 2014

High School

Caroline Duke
Wyoming High School

David Evans
Finneytown High School

Elisa Fay
Walnut Hill High School

Rachel Koize
McAuley High School

Matthew Lethander
Wyoming High School

Colleen Sauer
Finneytown High School

Kara Sauer
Finneytown High School

Rebecca Snyder
Finneytown High School

Christina Somers
SCPA

College

Parker Brown
Higher Ground Helicopters
Flight Academy

Daniel Custer
Chemical Engineering
Purdue University

Bethany Custer
Secondary English Ed.
Miami University

Jennifer Evans
Chemical Engineering
Purdue University

Ryan Finke
Digital Design
University of Cincinnati

Hannah Smith
Public Health
University of
North Carolina
Chapel Hill

Josh Telecsan
Information Technology
University of Cincinnati

Ashley Terry
Business Management
Cincinnati State

Post Graduate

Mike Chaney
Capella University
Masters in Adult Ed.
December 2013

18. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Classes Jr. High High School ASF Celebrate Jenny Smith Mama Lucy 	Barnabas Ctr BC 204 BC 206 Various Fireside Room Great Hall Sanctuary
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary

19. monday

6:00pm	Supper Club	Fellowship Hall
6:30pm	Karate	Clubroom
	AHG Troop Meeting	Great Hall

20. tuesday

6:30pm	Super Choir	Fellowship Hal
--------	-------------	----------------

21. wednesday

9:30am	Library Work Day	BC 103
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Session	BC 210 & 202

22. thursday

8:30am	Prayer	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
3:00pm	College Hill Farm Market	Parking Lot
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	ACA Meeting	Club Room
	Choir	Choir Room
7:30pm	Alanon	BC 201 & 202

23. friday

6:00am	Friday Morning Men	Fireside Room
--------	--------------------	---------------

24. saturday

2:00pm	Praise Dancers	Clubroom
--------	----------------	----------

The following assistive devices are available
Please ask the ushers if you need wheelchair seating or special hearing equipment. Also, handicapped accessible bathrooms are located to the right of the platform in the hallway leading to the white house parking lot.

Children and Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children’s Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service. Then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service.

This week’s helpers are:
9:00am Jason McSwain & Nate Smith
11:15am Michael & Marissa Fox
(McSwain Family will greet)

Next week’s helpers are:
9:00am Jonny Wiers & Nathan Lowe
11:15am Jared & Sarah Lowe