



Charlestown United Protestant Church



Reaching Out with God's Love, Celebrating Life in Jesus Christ.

A Newsletter for Friends and Residents of the Charlestown Retirement Community

2nd Quarter 2025

Peter and the Resurrection

Profound sadness coupled with terror wrapped Peter's stomach and clenched it into tight, painful knot.

Yes, Jesus had told his disciples that he would be killed, even that he would be crucified. But Peter hadn't believed it. When you see daily miracles and hear incisive teaching from a confident public figure, you refuse to acknowledge that anything could ever change.

But overnight, Peter's world collapsed.

They had eaten Passover together on Thursday night. But only few hours later, Jesus was under arrest. A hasty trial lit by flickering lamps in the high priest's palace condemned Jesus. Then early-morning shuttles to Pilate, then Herod, then back again to Pilate sealed his fate. By 9 am soldiers were pounding nails into his hands and feet, jerking him upright on a cross to let him hang in the sun -- until the sun itself hid its face and left the onlookers to watch the Master die in the eerie chill of this very black day.

Peter had fled. In fact, none of the Twelve remained to see him buried. Only Mary Magdalene and a couple of wealthy followers were left to take his body down, carry it outside the city, and entomb it.

If you've ever felt despair at the pit of your stomach, then you know what Peter felt.

When he *did* go out, he would walk in a kind of daze, utterly disoriented, shattered, the center of his world now a black hole, an empty void.

How could the Messiah, the heir of David's throne, be executed? It went against all logic. It was impossible — yet it had happened, and oh so swiftly!

Peter slept fitfully Saturday night and when his eyes opened Sunday morning, the doom of death was heavy upon him. He pulled his cloak over his eyes, hoping he could fall back to sleep, but knowing he wouldn't.

All of a sudden someone was banging on the door. Soldiers! Peter got up with a start. How can I escape? Then he heard Mary Magdalene's voice, and his terror fell back into depression. Mary was breathless, troubled, her face stained with tears.

Peter grumbled, "Why did you have to wake me so early?"

Mary blurted out: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb!"

Peter pulled his fellow-disciple John to his feet, slammed the door behind them, and began to run through the narrow streets, out the city gate, and then on to the tomb.

The great stone that had sealed the tomb stood open. As they entered, the sepulcher was empty, except for some folded graveclothes. The body was gone.

Folded? That was strange. Folded graveclothes but no body. Hardly what you'd expect from grave robbers.

John seemed convinced by the graveclothes that somehow Jesus had been resurrected or something, but Peter wasn't so sure. How could he believe that after so much had happened? He walked slowly back towards the city pondering, thinking, wanting to believe, but afraid to hope.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared. Peter, the so-called "rock," had publically betrayed him. He had shouted, "I don't know the man!" He was so unworthy. And yet here was Jesus before him. Peter fell to his knees and wept for joy.

Peter never said much to the others about this meeting — what had been said, what had transpired. But after that you'd sometimes see Peter deep in thought, pensive. Then he would nod his head and traces of a smile would begin to transform his face into one written with thankfulness and joy and peace.

Peter had been whipsawed from his pit of despair and pulled by the Master into peace. Life had changed for the good. And since then many have found this same peace, this same smile of wonder at Jesus' amazing grace. Maybe you too. Jesus had risen — and Peter never doubted him again.

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JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH December 31, 2024

Statistics for period 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024:

	2023	2024
Envelope	\$180,559 \$18,395	\$162,164 DECREASE
Plate	\$28,792 \$6,321	\$35,113 INCREASE

If you should have any questions or comments, please send, in writing, to the attention of **Linda Kelch, Treasurer CUPC**, in the Pastoral Care office. We prayerfully hope you will continue to share your time, talents and giving so our church can continue to grow in our giving for the service of God.

In Grace and Peace,
CUPC Vestry

Lighthouses of Prayer **Scripture and prayer during** **LENT**

Watch TV Channel 972
Daily 8:15 am & 11:15 pm
March 5 to April 17, 2025

Two new devotionals each week of Lent,
repeated twice a day for a week

Devotionals are always available on My Erickson:

- Click on "**Community Videos**" icon on the homepage
- Scroll down to section titled "**Spirituals**", then click on "**Lent**", then click on "**Open Lent**" to select a devotional
- Click on devotional to open in numerical order

Lighthouses of Prayer - A ministry of Charlestown residents and a joint Christian ecumenical ministry of Charlestown United Protestant Church and Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Community