

From the Pastor's Desk

Spring has a way of showing up uninvited.

Every year I watch the dandelions push through the cracks in my driveway, and every year I am quietly amazed by them. Nobody planted them. Nobody asked for them. The lawn would frankly be more respectable without them. And yet there they are — gold and relentless and absolutely certain of their place in the world.

I've been thinking about that a lot this Lenten season, and it has led me to the series we're beginning on Sunday, April 12. We're calling it The Dandelion Gospel.

The resurrection of Jesus is, I've come to believe, the dandelion nobody planted. The disciples locked their doors. The religious establishment had done everything in its power to make sure the story ended on Friday. And then, without asking permission, without waiting for the right conditions, the risen Christ walked through the locked room and said, "Peace be with you."

That's the Gospel. It shows up in cracks and corners. It breaks through concrete. It blooms in places people had written off. And it goes wherever the wind carries it.

Over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday through Pentecost — we're going to follow that dandelion Gospel through the book of Acts and the Gospel of John. We'll talk about roots so deep nothing can pull them out. About a little community in Jerusalem so marked by generosity and gladness that people were drawn to it like bees to a flower. About a church scattered by hardship that bloomed wherever its people landed. About a Spirit that goes wherever it will, whether we planned for it or not.

And we'll end on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, with what I think will be an unforgettable moment — but I'll save that surprise for those who show up.

I want to invite you into this series not just as a worshiper but as a participant. Bring someone with you. Bring someone who's been looking for a reason to try church. Bring someone who used to come and drifted away. Bring someone who thinks faith is for people with fewer questions than they have. The Dandelion Gospel is exactly the right message for exactly those people — because it begins with a resurrection nobody asked for, in a room full of people who had more doubt than certainty.

I hope to see you there. And if you're not sure you're ready — that's okay too. You don't have to be ready. The dandelion doesn't ask permission. Neither does grace.



Pastor Denise