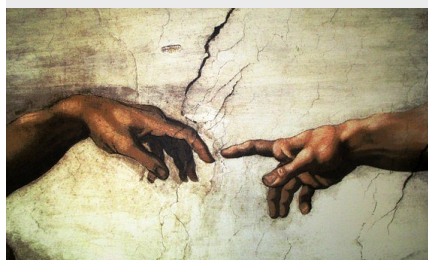


THE HOLY SPIRIT

A 50 Day Spiritual Encounter & Renewal

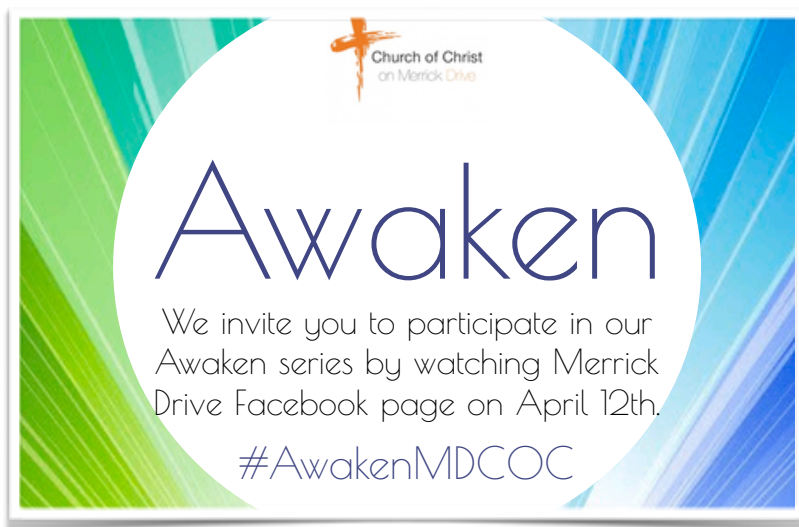
Welcome

By now, the Pea Plants reveal phenomenal growth. This is an object lesson of what is possible in our lives with the Spirit of God. Our God is a master Craftsman, a master Gardner. **Sunday May 17th is Day 36 in our journey** of finding our way in this season of life with God. The road so far has had many ups and downs, inhospitable terrain, uncertainties with a pandemic, interruptions and intrusions. Yet we have also experienced divine support, human care, compassion and a deeper sense of contentment.



Divine Connection

The famous painting by Michelangelo called "The Creation of Adam" on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel illustrates divine/human relationship. What do you notice about the hands?



Power @ Pentecost:

Perhaps one of the best summaries of Acts 2 is by the original participants: "what does this mean?" (Acts 2:12). Jesus said power would come at Pentecost but this is not what they had in mind (Acts 1:4-8). On this occasion, it was the amazing power of God to blend ethnic groups that often clashed in history. The power of God is not captive to one culture (Hebrews), all languages/ cultures are represented at the table. This power for personal and communal transformation still exists for the People of God! Do you feel empowered by God? The Bible and the Church are accountability partners to testify that with God all things are possible — the transformation of your spirit, the Church and the World is doable! The question becomes, do we really want spiritual change in our lives? And what kind of divine changes will we welcome? Our ethics on racial relations, money, sex, hospitality, hardships, self control? Pentecost was a monumental day in Christian history — it marked a new beginning. Divine ways of the Old Covenant converged with the New as God awakened a new people rooted in his Son; the old community had been absorbed by the new, fulfilled in Jesus. It ushered in a new era — The living presence of God.

This Week ...

- Write brief entries in your journal to remember your journey. **Include a prayer list.**
- How is your Pea Plant looking? Post your pictures at **#AwakenMDCOC.**
- **Dig Deeper in your Bible.**
Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4; 15:28; John 3:1-9; 7:38-39; 14:25; 15:26-27; 16:4-15; Matt. 12:30-32; Ephesians 4:25-5:20; Psalm 51. Rom. 8:12-27; 1 Cor. 12:1-13

Soul Shaping Questions

- How is the Holy Spirit like Wind? Like a breath?
- What does it mean to sin against the Holy Spirit? (Matt. 12:31). Does this still happen?
- How can you grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30)?
- How is the Holy Spirit helping you to become the person God wants?
- In what ways are your spiritual gifts edifying others?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit helping the Church? Convicting the World?

Looking Ahead ...

The last week in our series begins next Sunday. What does the **Book of Ruth** have to do with spiritual faith?

Our Divine Helper ...

The season of Easter to Pentecost is an exciting 50 day biblical journey giving us a rich taste of God's transformative power. God has given us various resources in spiritual growth such as the Bible and a Church family. This week, we consider the role of the Holy Spirit in transformation. **HOLY** bears the meaning of sacred, pure, revered, set apart, consecrated. **SPIRIT** is harder to define because by very nature, He defies our controls. Spirit represents the often mysterious working of God. It stands to reason, spiritual people are partakers in the sacred movement and rhythms of God. The Hebrew word (*Ruach*) and the Greek word (*Pneuma*) have very close meanings — Wind, Breath or Spirit. Jesus made a pun in John 3:8 when he compared the Spirit to the Wind. Jesus' point is that while the power is invisible, you may hear it and the affect is quite noticeable. Are we Spiritual people? What kinds of attitudes & actions would reveal the Holy Spirit in us? (hint, Gal. 5:22-24). The Apostle John calls the Holy Spirit, *Paraclete* — the Counselor/Helper; or literally, the one "**called alongside**" to render assistance (John 14:25). Real leadership is a "coming alongside" to help. I marvel at God's ways, God has provided a wireless spiritual connection that is reliable and never loses signal — a constant companion in the mission of transformation. It is this Holy Spirit who imparts gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-13;). All true believers are partakers of this same Spirit (inner breath, outward wind) which results in a Holy consecration — life change. We talk & act differently. It's exciting to know that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit — God's residence (1 Cor. 6:19); and it's humbling to know that God invests so much into us, in you!



A Prayer for You:

May the God of all power, instill within you his Spirit presence as you exercise the spiritual gift(s) entrusted to you to edify others.