

A FRESH START

As preached on Sunday, May 16th

Read: Acts 1:12-26

1. This week's text begins with the disciples heading back to Jerusalem to wait. They knew they were waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit, but do you think they had any idea what that meant? Did knowing what they were waiting for make the wait easier or harder?
2. Luke records some interesting details in this text. For instance, he records the names of the 11 remaining disciples. Why do you think he does this? Why do you think he lists the disciples in a different sequence than when he listed them in Luke 6:14-16?
3. Apparently there were others present as well: "along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." (v.14) What is significant about each of these?
4. While they are all waiting in Jerusalem the believers prepare themselves for what is next by conducting a little bit of church business. Who is it that stands and leads this business? Why is he the one who is in charge? Are you surprised?
5. Why do they need to replace Judas? Why not just leave his position open?
6. Why do you suppose the believers relied upon casting lots to determine which of the two candidates would take Judas' place? Why don't we do the same today?
7. This passage is bookended with prayer. In v.14 "they all joined together constantly in prayer" and in v.24 they prayed before casting lots to determine the next apostle. What does this signify to you about the intended role of prayer in the Christian community?
8. How do you think FHPC's Elders, Deacons, and Staff can rely upon prayer as they lead our church in these changing times? How can you more fully rely upon prayer as you make decisions in your own life?