



25 Main Street, P.O. Box 61, Grand Bend, Ontario N0M 1T0 * (519) 238-2402
huronshoresunitedchurch@gmail.com * www.huronshoresunitedchurch.com

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Fools for Christ

"My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1

Dear Ones,

I read something this morning that said, "*April Fool's Day has been cancelled this year, since nothing could top reality right now!*" I appreciate that sentiment.

We know a thing or two about foolishness in the church, actually. It was the apostle Paul who wrote to the earliest Christians in Corinth saying,

For the message about the cross is *foolishness* to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18, italics mine)

What does he mean by that? It's not hard to figure out, as true in our own day as it was almost two thousand years ago. On the surface of it, our belief is ridiculous ('ridiculous', by the way, comes from a word meaning "laughable"): the son of God died and was raised to life and through that act we are all given eternal life. It's a tough sell, even on a good day!

That is why it is "foolishness" to those who cannot believe in the power of it, and in the power of God. It makes no sense, according to the sense of the world, in which gods don't have sons, and deities don't die, and the dead stay dead.

But "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength," continues Paul (1 Corinthians 1:25). In other words, God's plan for us is so far beyond our knowledge that it might seem crazy to our limited understanding.

The other kind of Christian foolishness has to do with lifestyle. Our world tends to measure success by certain outward signs: conspicuous consumption. Depending on your culture, it could be how many cowrie shells you have, or diamond rings, or the cost of the car in your driveway. Even the cut of your clothes. But Christians do crazy things, like

- give money away (every donation you make to charity!),
- or give food away (do you support the food banks?).
- We even give away time (have you ever volunteered?).

That money, food and time could have been kept for ourselves and our families – but like holy fools, we gave them away. Paul seems to have been very poor, because instead of focusing on growing his personal wealth, he focused on growing the church (see 1 Corinthians 4:11-13).

Holy friends, holy fools, enjoy this day! For through the foolishness of the gospel we have been saved, and no harm can come to us!

Grace to you, and peace,

Kate

katecrawfordmn@gmail.com

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

