



We've been in a series about the last week of Jesus' life. It began in the upper room with the Last Supper. What started as a traditional Seder ended with Jesus putting himself on the table in place of the sacrificial lamb. He said, "This is my body given for you. This is my blood poured out for you." Jesus set us free from sin. He promises his followers a new covenant. We are reminded of that gift when we celebrate Holy Communion.

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed in agony. He persisted in his prayer and said, "Not my will, but your will be done." He showed us the kind of strength that we can gain should we take everything to God in prayer.

The religious people that should have loved Jesus the most captured him, shackled him, and tried him. The chief priest and scribes were saying that Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. That charge was punishable by death. Jesus is taken to the governor's mansion. Jesus comes face-to-face with Pontius Pilate. Two kingdoms are about to collide: Jerusalem and Rome. Pontius Pilate is stuck in the middle.

The chief priest took Jesus into the courtroom. Pilate would be forced to either affirm Jesus' claim of being King of the Jews or deny that Jesus was the Messiah. Since Caesar was the King of the Jews, Jesus would be killed. Historians described Pontius Pilate as unmovable. No one could force his hand or tell him what to do. He was harsh and stubborn. He had tremendous power. He was a politician in total control of the situation. He had the power to control Jesus' fate, whether Jesus would live or die.

When Pilate questions Jesus, Jesus refuses to defend himself. Pilate has to do something, but this situation doesn't feel right. He is trying to rid himself of the problem. He picks a notorious evil prisoner, places him beside Jesus, and allows the crowd to decide which one they will release. Barrabas is ushered into the courtroom. Pilate gives the crowd a choice to free Jesus or Barrabas. The chief priest riles up the crowd to say give us Barrabas.

Pilate miscalculates the outcome. Then Pilate's wife had a dream that said, "You need to be clean of this man. You need to stay away from this innocent man. Run the other direction." Pilate was looking for a way out, but ignores his wife.

Many people want to exonerate Pilate of any guilt. They mention the crowd yelled, "Crucify Him!" This was not a democracy. Pilate was in the sole position of authority. He was the governor of the strongest empire. No one could force his hand. After he makes the decision he wants to make himself clean. He is looking for forgiveness because he knows he is doing the wrong thing. He knows the right thing because he received a divine revelation.

Pilate chooses to do wrong. In that instant we realize that Pilate is like every one of us. Just like Pilate we can't stop doing the things we don't want to do. The difference between Pilate and us is that we can rejoice that Christ can save us, cleanse us, and wash us. Pilate could only turn to a bowl of water. As Pilate washed his hands, I can imagine his wife walking away sobbing. She may have hummed that song, "What Can Wash Away My Sin? Nothing, but the Blood of Jesus." She knew.

When do we turn to something other than the grace of Jesus to get out of a situation? When have we looked to something other than the grace of Jesus to find our salvation, rescue, or our hope? When in our lives have we turned our backs on Jesus? When the chips are down will Jesus still be able to count on me?

Becoming deeply committed Christians begins when we do the same things that Christ did and live sacrificially. That means living lives of service. It means getting involved the best you can when you don't think you have enough time to give. Nothing we do can make God love us anymore; nothing we do can make God love us any less. We give out of gratitude for what he has done in our lives. That is Christ's call on our lives. Do you get it?

Let's pray. Gracious Lord, thank you for the continued opportunities that you give us to live faithfully in the world. We give you thanks. We pray that you will fill us with the spirit that will enable us to believe that we can do all things because of your grace. Bless us today. Renew our souls and our spirits so we don't turn our backs on you when the chips are down.

Help us to be sacrificial in our giving. Help us to live lives of grace that that we might become ambassadors of hope and light to the world. Help us to collectively live in community to change the world. Amen.

Happy Easter to you and your family! Pastor Tina



April 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 Choir 6:45p | 2 | 3 Good Friday Service Abundant Life 7-8p | 4 |
| | | | | | Prayer Vigil | 3p-3p |
| 5 Easter Sunrise 7pa Breakfast 8a Worship 10:45a | 6 | 7 Council 7p | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Communion Sunday Boy Scouts 3-5:30p Youth 5:30 | 13 Margaret's Small group 1p | 14 Disciples 7p | 15 | 16 Napper's Luncheon 11:30a | 17 | 18 Pancake Breakfast 8-11a Book Sale |
| 19 Pot Luck Pasta Theme After Worship Spring District Gathering 3p Boy Scouts 3-5:30p Youth 5:30p | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Prayer Evening Margaret's 6:30p | 24 | 25 |
| 26 AUCTION After Worship | 27 Margaret's Small group 1p | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Thomas 2nd
 Wilma Weaver 4th
 Chelsea Bowker 4th
 Brittany Bowker 4th
 Michael Mercer 10th
 Seth Oliver 11th
 Garry Garrod 12th
 Jody Schantz 12th
 Eileen Esterly 16th
 Becky Einsiedel 19th
 Kassie Seabolt 23rd

Cassie Maiorana 24th
 Ava Patrone 25th
 Randy Daub 28th
 Abylin Watkins 29th

ANNIVERSARIES

Kym & Mike Seabolt 12th
 Ruth & Joe Zarnosky 15th
 Steve & Becky Einsiedel 28th

EASTER

*It's not about
 The bunny
 It's about
 The Lamb*



Abundant Life Church will be hosting April 3, 2015 from 7-8 PM. The service will contain music, skits of four Biblical characters, and an offering to the 4C's initiative.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL
We need your help to fill all the 24 hours. We are always asking for donations of all kinds ~ now we are asking for only an hour of your day to pray for your church.

SIGNUP TODAY...

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.
~Clarence W. Hall

BOY SCOUT TROOP 22/Meeting at NWUMC

The new Boy Scout Troop has started to meet on Sundays from 3:30-5:00pm in the basement. Currently, there are 10 boys and 7 adult leaders actively involved in getting the new Troop off the ground. They are looking forward to their first campout on April 24-26th at Camp Tuscazoar in Dover, OH. They will be earning the Search & Rescue Merit Badge as well as touring the inside of the newly renovated Dover Dam. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Scoutmaster Randy Daub at (330) 853-7438.



APRIL 5TH
Sunrise Service
7:00 am
Breakfast
8:00 am
Worship
10:45 am

PANCAKE BREAKFAST CHANGE

The Pancake Breakfast for April will be held on the 3rd Saturday ~ 18th. This is mainly due to the Easter Breakfast

POTLUCK LUNCHEON
Sunday, April 19th after Worship
This will be a 'pasta theme' luncheon, however, we still need all kinds of other dishes!

BOOK SALE PLANNED

To go along with the Pancake Breakfast on Sat. 18th, there will also be a 'book sale'
We have a lot of books downstairs and if anyone has any to add, please see Barb Mercer since she will be setting up and would appreciate any helpers.

PRAYER EVENING
Margaret Javens will be hosting this month on Thursday the 23rd at 6:30pm. Please let her know if you plan on attending.
330-426-9579

BLOOMING AT FAIRFIELD CRAFT SHOW
EFUMC is hosting this event on Sat., May 23rd from 10am-4pm They are inviting anyone wishing to participate by renting a space to fill out the registration papers available in the Foyer along with all info needed. Registration is due by April 18th!

SPRING CLEAN UP – Crestview Youth Leadership Group is holding an Electronics Recycle Drive on Saturday April 25th 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the PAC parking lot. Appliances, computers, scrap metal, ink cartridges and cell phones...or go to Crestviewrebels.org for a complete list.

AUCTION SUNDAY

COPE Benefit Fundraiser ~ On Sunday, April 26th at 1 pm

For the main live auction, remember that handmade items like quilts, woodworking items, art, etc are great to auction. Also, if anyone has access to pro baseball/football tickets, or vacation homes or timeshares; IN GOOD CONDITION: vehicles, used furniture, appliances, antiques, etc.

Contact Ruth Zarnosky 330-853-6887 ~ Auction Chairman

Bill and Jodi Baer will be handling the Auction

In addition to large items for the auction, there will be a "silent auction". There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. However, because of space constraints, we are looking to make "mega-baskets" with help from individuals who will donate one or two larger items. Example: camping package: sleeping bags, cooler, chair, camp stove, camp cooking set, hot dog sticks, tent, etc. GARDENING BASKET: tools, potting soil, bulbs, seeds, kneeling pad, kneeling stool, roto-tiller, plant food, garden decorations, shepherd's hook, gardening book, etc.

OHIO STATE basket.... (SEE SIGNUP SHEET)

FOR KIDS: FROZEN BASKET FOR GIRLS; LEGO BASKET FOR BOYS...

Also, you can provide funds for the "Visit Pittsburgh" Package: which would help buy tickets to Carnegie Science Center; Museum of Natural History; Duquesne Incline, and food and hotel vouchers.

Any of these "mega-baskets" could also be auctioned.

Please contact Dena Rozeski at 330-540-6180 for questions & ideas or to donate any of these Silent Auction baskets.

AUCTION DAY LUNCH

We are planning a "Boxed Lunch" to be purchased at a small cost the day of the Auction. The lunches will include sloppy joes or hot dogs, potato chips, chocolate chip cookie, apple and a pop/water. These items will also be available ala carte.

We are in need of food items to prepare these lunches. For example, ground beef/buns for the sloppy joes, hot dogs/buns, bags of potato chips, bags of apples, pop/water, items to make the cookies (I am making all the cookies) and condiments. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated (if unable to donate food) to purchase the paper products to put these boxed lunches together.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby or see me with any questions.

LET'S ALL MAKE THIS A HUGE SUCCESS FOR
CALEB AND HIS FAMILY !!!

Thank you..... Marcia Webber