



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Sometime around the year 90 AD an old fisherman sat down to write a letter. He had been raised in a small village on the edge of the sea of Galilee but now he has found himself in the bustling Roman city of Ephesus. Things in this metropolis are incredibly different from where he spent the first two decades of his life. Now, in his late 70s, he could have never imagined that a choice he made as a teenager to leave his family's fishing business would lead him here.

But leave he did, to follow the one called Jesus. He was there when Jesus walked on water. He was there when Jesus fed 5000 with a few fish and loaves. He was there when Jesus healed the broken, gave sight to the blind and even raised the dead. He was the only disciple there when Jesus died on a Roman cross. And he was there, too, at the empty tomb.

That risen Jesus was more than just a religious teacher. He was the Son of God. And to this old man, there could not be a more significant truth in the whole world.

There are small groups of Jesus-followers here in this city and in neighboring towns; and he has grown concerned because he sees the struggles they face. There is opposition from the government, which is beginning serious persecution of those who worship the risen Christ. There are challenges from false teachers, who are leading people astray from the truth of who Jesus is. There is turmoil within, as these groups of people strive to love each other as their Savior has taught them.

He knows his years may be numbered; he is worried he doesn't have much time left. And so he writes to these churches in Ephesus and the surrounding area. He is desperate to remind them of who Jesus is; more than anything else, he wants them to know that Jesus really is who He claimed to be – the Messiah, the Son of God. The retired fisherman – the Apostle John – knew there was nothing as important as this.

This is the letter we encounter when we read 1 John; it is a short text, full of simple language and a direct style written by an eyewitness to the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

I encourage you to keep reading this

letter during Lent. Each Sunday at

worship we are providing a

devotional with the morning's

bulletin. This half sheet will take you through one

chapter of 1 John each week. The readings are short

and there are two questions each day to help you think about what the Scripture is teaching. If you

haven't been able to follow along – you can start this week! Let this letter encourage you to know and trust Jesus more!



The ruins of the Basilica of St. John in Ephesus, the traditional burial place of John the Apostle

Pastor Jos

Spring forward You must...



Sunday,
March 10
Set your
clocks
ahead

Or late to church you will be...

OUR TURN FOR BREAKFAST



It is our turn to provide breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. (March 31 at 7:00a.m. at East Cemetery). We will need people to help set up, cooks and serving people, and a clean up crew. To lend a hand, please talk to Connie or Jerry Herman



We're playing Euchre Saturday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone, regardless of skill level is welcome!

Chili Cook-Off and Game Night



Saturday March 16 6:00 p.m.
Come enjoy some great chili and vote for your favorite chef!
A night of board games and fellowship will follow the crowning of the cook-off winner.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Praises

- 70 degrees!!

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Tristan Burns - Air Force stationed in Africa
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Matt Burkhardt - National Guard
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- Friend going through rough time
- Unspokens
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- Keylee - student diagnosed with leukemia
- Theresa Smith - in skilled nursing facility
- Ronnie - healing from pain after back surgery
- Kevin Walton recovering from open heart surgery
- Al Amstutz - recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, and other health issues.
- Charles Sears - serious car accident
- Ken - health concerns
- Karen & Tom
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- David
- Jonathan - stomach cancer
- Marianna Miller - recent diagnosis with aggressive form of cancer
- Kevin Hanna
- Mary Hardesty - colon cancer
- Tara
- Dale James

Condolences

- **The family of Roger Purdy**
- **The family of Juleene Tope**

The Deacons encourage you to send cards or notes of encouragement to those in the church family experiencing prayer needs.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

March 7 - Stacie Nelson

March 9 - Adelyn Kidd

March 10 - Mary Lee Wirick



Well, the plan was to kayak/canoe in the Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area this coming Sunday, but unfortunately the weather looks pretty lousy. But

no worries, Pastor Jos will lead us in games and Bible study instead (during the second hour), so be sure to join us!

If you all are still game, we will try to reschedule the swamp float for March 17.



I kayaked there last night and the vegetation is already starting to grow. I don't think we will have much opportunity past March 17 because it will be hard to get through, so let's hope for good weather then.

See ya'll Sunday!
Michelle

And, Adam Swinehart is asking if you guys are willing to help serve at the Chili Cookoff, which will be **Saturday, March 16**. Unfortunately, I (Michelle) have a prior commitment and won't be able to attend. But if you can help, please let me or Adam Swinehart know ASAP. It's always a fun time!

FINAL SUNDAY FOR EASTER FLOWERS



This Sunday, March 10 is the final Sunday to place your order for Easter flowers. The order form is located on the sign-up table in the gallery. Details are on the table with the order form. Be sure to list who the flower is in honor or memory of. And please include payment with your order. The flowers will be displayed Easter morning, and you can take your flowers home with you following the Easter morning service.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2023 Annual Report is now complete and will be emailed along with this week's Weekly Update. There will be a few hard copies available on the table in the Gallery as well.

We encourage you to take a look at all that went on in the church in 2023. We had some wonderful volunteers reaching out in many areas including (but certainly not limited to) Youth, Outreach, Discipleship and Congregational Life. If you have questions about a particular Team, you can direct your questions to the Team Leader listed at the bottom of each individual report. Questions for the Financial Reports can be directed to Barry Henderson.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

- March 9 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre
- March 10 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and Second Hour for all ages.
- March 13 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- March 13 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 13 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- March 16 - 6:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off and Family Game Night
- March 17 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and Second Hour for all ages.
- March 20 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- March 20 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 24 - Palm Sunday—Sunday morning worship and Second Hour for all ages.
- March 25 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- March 26 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- March 27 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- March 27 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 28 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
- March 31 - Sunrise Service at East Cemetery Breakfast to follow here at FPC
- March 31 - 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service No Second Hour today.

LOOKS LIKE SPRING IS FINALLY ON THE WAY



AAAAND IT'S SNOWING