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## From the Pastor's Desk...

MARCH 2019

Dear Cup family and friends,

When the apostle Paul was on trial, on more than one occasion he would simply appeal to the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection. He says at one point, "What I am saying is true and reasonable. The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner." (Acts 26:26) The events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were historical: they happened in particular locations, with eyewitnesses to record the events. As John puts it: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. . . we write this to you to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-2, 4)

From April 3-13, four of us from Cup church – Jud Herter, Beth Hesselson, Paula Keefer and myself will be taking a tour of many locations in Israel, as part of a group from the Presbytery. We will be travelling in the towns through Galilee, look on Bethlehem, and spend several days in and around Jerusalem. We will return just before Palm Sunday. As one of the pastors on the trip, I'll be offering some brief teaching and devotions when we are at Capernaum and Mt. Carmel.

I've been told by other teachers and pastors who have been to Israel that the experience transforms their teaching. We'll see! Geography certainly plays an important part in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, when Jesus feeds the five thousand in the gospel of Mark, it is in a primarily Jewish location (Mark 6:30-44). Yet after Jesus and disciples cross the sea of Galilee, they are in a primarily Gentile location when he feeds the four thousand (Mark 8:1-13). It's another way of demonstrating that Jesus' mission wasn't to just one group of people – it was to the wider world. Mark's original audience would have picked up on this, but our distance in both time and geography can cause us to miss it. I can tell you I was deeply moved when I had the opportunity to stand on Mars hill in Athens, and see for myself the challenge Paul faced in explaining the gospel to the Greeks (Acts 17). Nevertheless, I was also blessed to know that God has been faithful in allowing each generation since that time to hear and receive the good news of great joy about Jesus.

We don't need to cross a stormy lake to share the gospel with someone who may not really know it – most of us have an opportunity to do this right on our own streets!

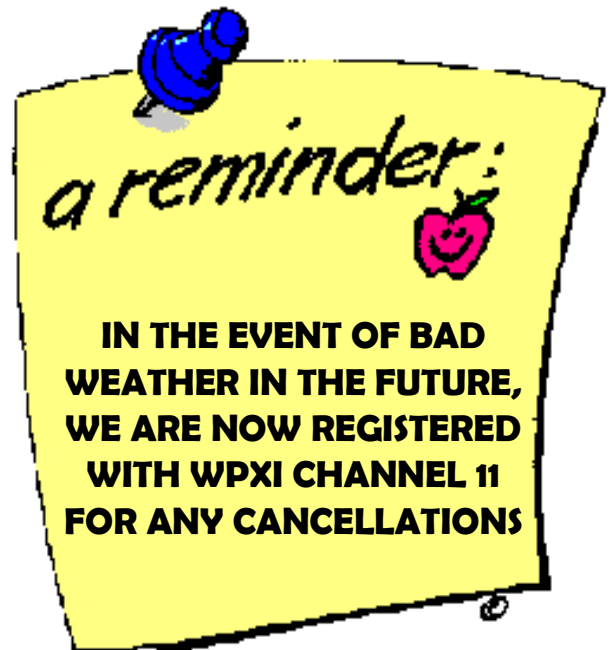
My hope and prayer is that you and I will grow in our hope, trust, and motivation to get to know our neighbors in a more meaningful way this Spring, and invite them to share in the joy of the Easter message with us. Jesus came to earth to open the lifegate for us, and the Holy Spirit is here now to help and encourage us in our mission. So whether we are in Jerusalem or New Galilee, let's make our OWN joy complete by sharing what God has done!

Cordially,  
Pastor Scott

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## MARCH Calendar

<u>March 1-2</u>	Presbytery of the Alleghenies / Mt. Lebanon EPC
<u>March 4</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study Resumes
<u>March 5</u>	5:45pm DEACONS 7:00pm WORSHIP 7:30pm TRUSTEES
<u>March 6</u>	7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
<u>March 13</u>	1:00pm Game Day
<u>March 19</u>	7:00pm SESSION
<u>March 21</u>	12:00pm Noon Lunch Bunch @ Sal's
<u>March 24</u>	10:30am SHINE Sunday
<u>Every Monday</u>	1:00pm Adult Bible Study
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	3:30pm "SHINE" After School program followed by Family Dinner @6pm (NO Dinner 3/6)
<u>Every Thursday</u>	9:00am Women's Small Group 7:00pm Choir Practice
<u>Every Saturday</u>	7:30am Men's Breakfast@ Eat-n-Park
<u>Every Sunday</u>	5:00pm Confirmation Class (NO Class 3/3) 6:30pm Crosscurrent



### AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

Used Light bulbs are for sale  
for \$.25 a piece  
from the Trustees



**MARCH 6th  
7:00pm**

## CUP LIBRARY NEWS

There are two excellent new movies put out on DVD by the Affirm Films subsidiary of Sony in our church library video section. The first is "Risen" starring Joseph Fiennes as a powerful Roman military tribune who is given the task of solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus. He is given orders by Pontius Pilate following the crucifixion in order to disprove the rumors circulating through Jerusalem that Christ has risen. The Roman leaders are fearful of an uprising in Jerusalem if the populace begins to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. The Biblical story told through the eyes of a non-believer can give new insight to the events that changed the course of human history over two thousand years ago.

The second new movie on our shelves is "Paul, Apostle of Christ". Shakespearean actor James Faulkner stars as the apostle Paul and Jim Caviezel stars as his friend Luke. Paul, near the end of his ministry is spending his last days in a Roman prison cell awaiting execution by Emperor Nero. Luke, risking his life to be near and support his friend, begins work writing the book of Acts in order to document the beginning of the Christian Church.

Both movies are rated PG-13 and can be checked out anytime you are at the church library. Just sign the card in the pocket on the back of the case and leave in the basket on the table against the side wall.

We also have three new "I Can Read" books for young readers in our children's section; "Baby Moses and the Princess", "Do Not Fear, God is Near" and "God Made the Colors". Come check us out!

Paula Keefer, Church Librarian

### **IN NEED OF PRAYER?**

**Members of the prayer team are available in the library following worship each Sunday.**

*Please join us in the library and let us pray with you. If you know of family members or others in the community who are in need of prayer, please encourage them to join us on Sundays.*

**Cup Church also has a Prayer Chain set up for anyone in need throughout the week or anyone having a prayer request.**

**Either call Cindy during Office hours (Tuesday—Friday 9:00am—2:00pm) at 724-843-1594 or notify Pastor Scott or Joel to start the chain.**

*Also, we are available if you would like to set up a more convenient time to pray together with the prayer team or one of our elders.*

*Please remember that all prayer requests will remain confidential unless we are given permission to publically share!*

**JOEL WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FROM SUNDAY MARCH 10TH—SATURDAY MARCH 26TH SHE WILL BE ATTENDING THE REFORMED YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING IN LANCASTER, PA**



### **Weekly Meetings...**

Monday 1:00pm **Bible Study**

Second Wednesday 1:00pm **Game Day** (March 13)

Thursday Morning **Woman's Small Group** 9:00am

3rd Thursday at noon **Lunch Bunch**  
(March 21 @ Sal's Ristorante—please see Laura Crawford with your reservation)

Saturday Morning **Men's Group** 7:30am @ Eat 'n Park

### **SPRING SALE!**

**FRIDAY MAY 24th 9:00am—3:00pm**  
**SATURDAY MAY 25th 9:00am—1:00pm**

**This Spring, as you 'redd up' and clean out, remember to set aside those treasures you no longer want for our sale. We will announce a drop off date soon!**



### **From Our Daily Bread (March)**

**Author, Arthur Jackson**

*How are you using prayer, words, actions, and services to grow others in Jesus? What would you like your legacy to be?*

### **PRAYER -**

**Heavenly Father, use our living as a legacy for Your glory and the enrichment of others.**



### **WANTED!**

**LOOKING FOR  
Committee  
Members for  
a Family  
Ministry  
Group.  
See Joel!**





Happy Spring!!

Our Crosscurrent youth have been busy this past few months. Actually the beginning of February we spent the weekend in Beulah Beach for our EPiC Winter Youth Retreat. We took 14 youth and 4 leaders this year! Time spent together in worship was amazing! Thank you to all who helped us get there by supporting our Pancake and Spaghetti Fundraisers. Our youth also attended 2019 Winter Jam. It was a long fun night of worship!! Our youth have many things coming up including March 3rd we will be attending the Blackhawk High School Musical Willy Wonka. Other outings, as well as our GROW Overnighter is planned for April 18-19th. We welcome any graduating 7th graders as they join Youth Group! See me for details!

Confirmation class is in full swing. I ask you keep our 10 confirmands in prayer as they begin the process of writing their personal statements of faith.

So excited to have added a few new faces to our Shine family this season. Our first Shine Sunday is February 24th and we are looking forward to a great time of worship together!

As always I ask you please continue to keep both our Children and Youth as well as our community in prayer! There are many great things happening!

Your sister in Christ,

*Joel Cunniff*

CUP Children and Youth Director

The Lord hears his people when  
they call to him for help. He rescues  
them from all their troubles.  
~ Psalm 34:17, NLT

