

PASTOR'S CORNER



Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

YES, JESUS LOVES US

Jesus loves us.

Many people doubt this vital truth because their circumstances are not always what they desire them to be. "If Jesus loves me, why doesn't He give me what I want?" they ask. They often do not realize that because Jesus loves us, He doesn't always give us what we want – but He always gives us what we need.

For example, Revelation 1: 5-6 reminds us of two of the greatest provisions Christ lovingly made for us. He rescued us from our sins and elevated us to a place of honored service before God. Rescuing us from sin was not a simple, clinical act of an aloof hero warrior who defeated our enemies with no loss or harm to himself. It was instead an act of ferocious love. To rescue us, Jesus had to endure severe mocking and torture by sinful humans, and then willing yield Himself to an inglorious death (from human standards)

on the cross. What is even more, He died for us while we were actively hostile to Him (Romans 5:10) praying for God to forgive those in the very act of executing Him (Luke 23:33-34). After being obedient even to the shameful death of the cross, Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead on the third day.

It would have been enough for Jesus to rescue us from our sins because our sin is the greatest danger we face. Sin corrupts our lives on earth and if it remains unatoned will one day cast us into eternal torment. Because Jesus loves us, that horror no longer hangs over the heads of those who repent and accept His payment for our sin. But Jesus goes even further than that. He has also elevated us to a place of glorious purpose before God.

Redeemed individuals become a kingdom of priests before God. We have the regal privilege of entering

God's presence to minister to Him through our prayers and praises (Hebrews 13:15). We also get to bear eloquent testimony to His goodness and holiness as we live lives that honor Him here on earth. So, we not only receive salvation, but we are also given a purpose – our highest purpose. We were created to serve and glorify God (Genesis 1:26-27), but sin marred our ability to do so (Isaiah 59:2). Jesus' loving sacrifice of Himself restored us to a place of not only service but of friendship with God (John 15:15). What love!

May God help us to revel in the love of our Savior and never allow the temporary setbacks of life to undermine our assurance that our Lord Jesus Christ loves us fully and deeply.

Yes, Jesus loves you.

God bless you,

Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

MAR 5

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

MAR 8

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith?

3 CIRCLES

a Six-Session Training Event
Sundays Mar 3rd – Apr 7th @ 6 pm

Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available

KIDZONE & NURSERY SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 10

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM

MAR 7 & MAR 8

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

MAR 10

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for Good Friday Service March 29 @ 7 pm and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday Celebration on March 31 @ 11 am.
- Men's Breakfast Saturday @ 9 am. Bring a friend and something to share for breakfast if you can.
- Growth Groups continue Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- 3-Circles evangelism training continues Sundays @ 6pm until April 7.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream begin Sunday March 3, at 10am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser: grab a baby bottle from church and fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it by March 3 to support the work of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at PJVS1.blogspot.com.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!