

PASTOR'S CORNER



2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

ONE FOR ALL, SO ALL FOR ONE

Everybody lives for something. Most of us live for ourselves. Although everything we do may not be only for our tangible benefit, we often pursue things that we want to do – things that we feel good about. Living like that leads us further and further into self-centeredness and dangerous self-preoccupation.

Jesus offers us a better option. By dying for us and redeeming us from our sins, He offers us the option of living for Him. In fact, it is more than an option. It is an imperative. Jesus died for us to deliver us from inevitable eternal death. Eternal death is not the cessation of life but is unending excruciating existence away from the presence of God in a place of literal torment that the Bible calls the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15, espe-

cially 15). This is where we were all heading until Jesus stepped in and offered His life in place of ours. As Paul contemplates this amazing sacrifice, he is overcome with a compelling love. If Christ could pay so much to rescue us, the least we could do is live the rest of our lives for Him in return. This is not a reluctant, petulant surrender. It is a love-motivated, joyful surrender. We can find no better use for our lives than to give it back to Him who paid so dear a price to ransom us.

We want to live close to Him, and we want others to experience Him too. So we become ambassadors who beseech others to surrender to Christ that they may experience the joy of full salvation and live with true purpose here on earth. We are no longer driven by the

insatiable passions of the world and of our flesh. We have come to know fullness and contentment in Christ. The only thing that disquiets our soul is the knowledge that so many of our acquaintances and loved ones do not know Him. We must invite them to Him. They must know the joy and freedom available only in Christ.

This Easter season as we commemorate the death and resurrection of our Lord, may we be filled again with love and gratitude for our Savior that compels us to live for Him alone.

He is the one who died for all, so all of us can live solely for Him.

God bless you,

Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM

APR 2

Join us via Zoom video

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

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

APR 5

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

APR 7

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM

APR 7

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3-Circles evangelism training this Sunday at 6pm.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream continue Sundays at 10am on the lower level.
- Please return your Baby Bottles as soon as you can.
- The Church's Quarterly Business Meeting will be held Sunday April 17th following the Morning Service.
- 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!