

## PASTOR'S CORNER



**1 John 4:11**  
*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

### LOVED TO LOVE

It is wonderful to be loved and know it. What joy it brings to our hearts to know that someone cares for us. That someone is deeply committed to us. That someone thinks we are valuable – worthy of their affection. That someone is willing to sacrifice for us. What a treasure when that Someone is God Himself! We can bask in that love forever.

1 John 4:10 declares that God showered the ultimate love upon us. We didn't love God. But He loved us enough to send His only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Our sins put us in dreadful danger because sin attracts the awful wrath of God. One day all unrepentant sinners will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment. But, out of love, God sent Jesus to be a satisfactory sacrifice to expunge our sins and deliver us from its dreadful consequences. What amazing love that Jesus would endure the

agonizing death necessary to pay for our sin even when we did not love Him! In fact, we were in outright rebellion against Him.

As the apostle John considered that love, he realized that those who have experienced it are fully equipped to love others. People are not always easy to love. In fact, we can prove ourselves downright hard to love. We are foolish. We make mistakes. We are mean. And the list goes on. We can find many reasons not to love others, but one profound, positive reason overcomes all the negatives. God loved us sacrificially. If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. When we become distracted by the faults of others and when their shortcomings loom so large that we determine them undeserving of our love, let us turn our gaze from their faults and consider instead the incredible love that we have received. The recognition of the

generosity showered upon us will prompt us to be generous to others too.

Sure, we should bask in God's grace and favor. But we must go further. People – especially the ones we think undeserving – need love. God has loved us so we can actually love them.

We are loved to love.

Go show love to somebody this week.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
**TUE @ 7 PM**

**MAR 26**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> – Apr 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm

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

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**MAR 31**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

Celebrate with us  
**Easter**

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Celebrate with us  
**Easter**

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY**  
March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 11am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for Good Friday Service March 29 @ 7 pm and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday Celebration on March 31 @ 11 am.
- There will be no 3-Circles evangelism training this Sunday. Training resumes April 7th 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!