

April 2023

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan had just given a speech at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Something presidents have done regularly and without incident since 1972. Following his speech, the President walked out of the hotel surrounded by his Secret Service agents, one in front, one on each side and one behind him. As he approached his limousine, shots rang out. Six of them.

Instantly and instinctively, the agents did what they were trained to do: protect the President at all costs and get him out of danger as quickly as possible. Jerry Parr, agent in charge of the Presidential Protective Division pushed the President into the car while another agent, Timothy McCarthy, spread out his arms as a human shield. Both President Reagan and Agent Parr fell into the limo. Agent Ray Shaddick pushed their legs in and slammed the door behind them as the vehicle pulled away from the curb.

Looking back, Agent Parr saw three people down on the sidewalk outside the hotel. He would later learn that one of them was White House Press Secretary, James Brady, who had been hit in the head. The second was District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty, who was hit in the neck as he had moved to protect the President. Finally, Agent Timothy McCarthy, who had stretched himself out as a human shield to protect the President, had been struck in the abdomen.

President Reagan survived the assassination attempt by John Hinckley, who was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was released from a mental hospital in September 2016. All the others survived their wounds although their lives would forever be changed by the events of that day. Agent Parr tells of helping the President into George Washington University Hospital and that he collapsed once he'd stepped inside. He was unconscious and pale as workers rushed him into the ER. Agent Parr said he prayed silently, "Lord, let him live! Lord, let him live!" over and over again.

In a USA TODAY article (March 30, 2011), Agent Jerry Parr said, "Thirty years later, I look back on that historic day and know for certain that his life was saved by dedicated agents, excellent training, good equipment, outstanding medical care, President Reagan's robust constitution - and the grace of God." Agent Parr retired in 1985.

As great a sacrifice as that was in 1981, there was an even greater sacrifice made over 2,000 years ago.

This time, instead of being outside of a Washington, D.C. hotel, the scene took place outside the city of Jerusalem ... on a hillside overlooking the city. Once again, an amazing man stretched out His arms as a human shield. But this time it wasn't to protect a president. This time it was to protect you ... and me. The name of this amazing man?

JESUS.

The Bible says, "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities" ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). Paul said, "For our sake God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).

Somehow, saying, "thank you!" seems woefully inadequate for what Jesus did back then and what He's still doing for all of us today. Somehow, even calling the day "Good Friday," as we will remember again next week, the price He paid when He spread out His arms and died in our place, doesn't seem good enough.

Maybe it should be called, "AWESOME Friday" or "INCREDIBLE Friday." Somehow, "Good Friday," doesn't adequately express what's in my heart ... for all He did for us on the cross.

How about you?

Blessings,

Pastor David



Your identity reveals your character and your destiny. Jesus' identity was questioned in Luke 9. Peter responded with a firm conviction of Jesus as the Christ. Jesus was able to support his claim by coming back to life after his death on the cross. After his resurrection, Jesus commissioned his followers to go into all the world and make disciples. In this series of exciting messages from Luke chapters 9-12 we will consider who Jesus is and how his identity affects us. Jesus is the Lord of all!

What Are You Afraid Of?

Read Psalm 56:3-4 (ESV)

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Reflect

Are you feeling any fear right now? If so, what are you afraid of?

It is a fearful time for many. There are health concerns, economic issues, political unrest, and wars being fought throughout the world. Fear is a natural response to these things. But if we have put our trust in God and placed saving faith in Jesus Christ, we have nothing to fear!

That is what David was expressing in today's verse. David had a lot to be afraid of throughout his life. He was pursued by many enemies. Sometimes he had to fight for his life as a warrior and other times he had to run for his life and hide from those who wanted him dead.

When we read the beginning of this psalm, we gain some context for the fear that David was facing. He wrote, "Be gracious to me, O God, for man trampled on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly" ([Psalm 56:1-2](#)). David was under attack by men. The title of the psalm identifies the incident David is lamenting as the time the Philistines seized him in Gath. You can read about it in [1 Samuel 21:10-15](#).

And yet, he confidently placed his trust in God. Why? Because he knew that men are limited in their ability to truly harm him. He was in God's hands. What could men of mere flesh and blood do to him? He belonged to the Almighty God!

I love how David ends [Psalm 56](#). After lamenting over his trouble and pouring out his fear to God, he turns to praise. Even before God intervened. His circumstances hadn't changed. Still, he thanked God in advance. He wrote: "This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid, what can man do to me? I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life" ([Psalm 56:9b-13](#)).

In [Matthew 10:28-32](#), Jesus Himself confirmed that we shouldn't fear anything that can take our mortal lives but not our eternal souls: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

Friends, if you have acknowledged Jesus Christ as Lord and placed your faith in Him for your salvation, He won't deny you. You belong to Him. You are valuable to Him. He even knows the number of hairs on your head. Covid or any other disease could take your life. Our country could fall apart. We could lose our jobs and struggle to pay our bills and feed our families. World war 3 could start. But none of that changes our eternal destiny. Those things can kill our bodies but they have no claim to our souls. It's ok to be afraid. It's a scary world out there. But let's do like David did. When we are afraid, let's put our trust in the Lord. After all, what can this world do to you?

Pray

Lord, there is so much in the world that scares me. And yet, I know that I belong to You. You watch over me so closely that the hairs on my head are all counted. So I thank You and praise You, God. I put my trust in You because I know that You have delivered my soul from death. The world can't hurt me. Amen.





Mission Moment

Watching the American Sign Language Version of the Bible in Three Months!

Have you ever read through or watched the entire Bible in one year? How about six months? Students in Jamaica are going to watch the entire American Sign Language Version of the Bible (ASLV) in three months! Read what our friend Carole and her team are planning to accomplish:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for all that you do and are doing partnering with God in so many amazing ways! Today my heart is so FULL of THANKFULNESS for you and the whole team at Deaf Missions who made the ASLV possible! I know it took 38 years with so many people. THANK YOU for continuing the dream of Duane King to completion.

Today, our YWAM Deaf World Jamaica community is starting a CRAZY but FUN journey of watching the WHOLE ASLV in three months! YWAM has a training program called Discipleship Bible School (DBS) which is a program after the Discipleship Training School (DIS). The DIS is all about how to have a relationship with God and share with him others. The Bible school is all about understanding God's story and being able to observe, interpret, apply and communicate it accurately. Part of the requirement of the DBS is the 'read' the Bible cover to cover. AND BECAUSE OF DEAF MISSIONS AND THE ASLV we can 'watch' it all the way through!

Caleb one of our Deaf staff is pioneering the first ever Deaf World DBS with 10 students. And they started 'watching' today and will be watching everyday at 1.5 speed for the next 14 weeks to complete it all! I think we might be the first program/school to watch it all together as a group in



three months. Have you heard of another group that has watched the whole ASLV together from Genesis to Revelation? We are a little crazy but wow I am so excited about 12 of us (10 students and 2 staff) devouring God's word together this season and seeing how He transforms our lives!!

As we start today, my heart just was so full and thankful for you that I wanted to write a short message. THANK YOU again for all the work you have done to make this possible! I know that you are doing the same thing now for the Jesus movie.

Thank you for using your gifts and skills for God's Kingdom!

-Carole serving at YWAM Deaf World Jamaica

I HAVE AN IDEA

Those are usually my famous last words when suddenly I have an idea about something that's been on my mind. My family tends to run and hide because they know I will rope them into helping me put said idea into action. Sometimes I just say it to myself and set it aside. I let it sit there for awhile, unless it just keeps haunting me.

When the idea won't go away I usually take that as a sign to seriously consider the idea further. I sit and stew upon it. I try to think of ways I can put it into action, who can I get involved in helping me, etc. Sometimes, I just sort of dream about it and the idea gets bigger and bigger until it seems too big of an idea for me to tackle. When that happens, I am reminded that I can do all things through Christ and that we have a REALLY BIG GOD. Who am I to dismiss an idea that the Holy Spirit may have laid upon my heart?

With that in mind, I really do have an idea that's been on my heart for a while. When the above Deaf Missions article came out it inspired me to pursue it. The idea is simple really . . . I promise. I will save the my really big idea for later. I would like to commit to reading the entire Bible, not necessarily study it in depth but simply read it cover to cover. Problem is I don't want to do it alone, I would like to read it with others in a small group. We each take turns reading aloud to the group. Simple enough, right? Anybody interested? We can work out the details if you are. This group would be open to everyone, whether they are members of our church or another, or none at all.

If this idea sounds like an easy one you can get behind give me a call or text at 712-225-2650.

What's your 'big idea'? Share it with us for this new section of our newsletter now called, "I Have An Idea".

In Christ With You - Nancy Nelson



Easter Lilies

in Memory of

George, Fern & Connie Cockburn

by Curt & Rhonda Wiese

Steve Buck

by Hulda Schmitt

Paul & Maxine Jenness

by Paula Burch

Wayne Buck

by Hulda Schmitt

Neal Johnston

By Bob & Eleanor Johnston

Kermit, Kathryn, & Rodney Hazen

by Joyce Hazen

Ted & Helen Clark

Kenny Brandt

by Della Rupp

Paul Nelson

by Barry & Nancy Nelson

Steve Buck

by Rita Pearson

Jennifer George

by Nancy Nelson

Wayne Buck

by Rita Pearson

Loved Ones Gone Before

by David & Angela Hall

April 2023 Worship Team Schedule

2	9	16	23	30
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall	Sholeen Sparks	
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Angela Hall		
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	Guy Fishman	David Hall
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Angela Hall	Marica Casey	Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall	David Hall
Nancy Nelson	Mark Casey	Larry Heschke	Sharon Henkel	Nancy Nelson
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Mike Sparks	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson	Rita Pearson
Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen	Kevin Schmillen

DATE	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
03/05/2023	\$2041.93	72
03/12/2023	819.00	105
03/19/2023	7188.50	74
03/26/2023	2434.00	82

Serving Volunteers Needed

At the March 12, 2023 board of Elders & Deacons meeting the decision was made to return to serving communion with the passing of the trays. In addition to that we will also begin delivering communion to our members residing in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes.

Volunteers are needed! If you are willing to be of service in this capacity please contact Pastor David or Nancy Nelson at the church office. Email: office@cherokeefcc.com or call 712-225-2667.

April Celebrations

April 1

Amanda Curtin

April 4

Dennis & Bonnie Ducommun

April 6

Connie Johnson

April 7

Mike Duvall

April 10

Bryson Newcomb (BB)

April 14

Sholeen Sparks

April 19

Bonnie Ducommun

April 21

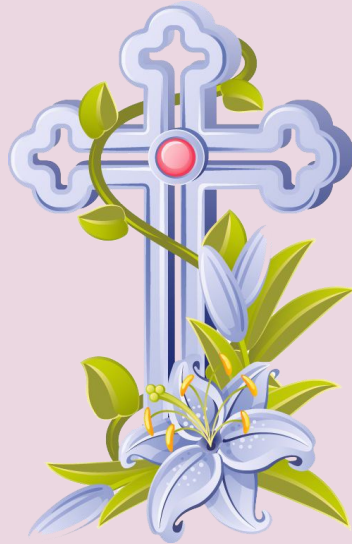
Laurie Wheeler

April 25

Joanne Nelson
Jeff & Amanda Curtin

April 28

Anita Howard



April Activities

- April 2 - Palm Sunday
- April 5 - Bible Buddies @ 6:30 p.m.
- April 7 - Good Friday Service @ 7:00 p.m.
- April 9 - Easter Sunrise Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m.
- April 9 - Easter Worship Service @ 9:30 a.m.
- April 13 - Homemakers @ 9:30 a.m.
- April 15 - MCS Birthday Party
- April 19 - Esther Circle 1:30 p.m.



EASTER 2023

APRIL 2 - 9

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

9:30 A.M.

Palm Sunday Worship Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Worship and Communion Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunrise Breakfast • 8:00 A.M.

Easter Worship Service • 9:30 A.M.

**No Sunday School



CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING PLAN

APRIL

Judges 6-7

Judges 8-9

Judges 10-12

Judges 13-15

Judges 16-18

Judges 19-21

Ruth 1-4

1 Samuel 1-3

1 Samuel 4-8

1 Samuel 9-12

1 Samuel 13-14

1 Samuel 15-17

1 Samuel 18-20; Psalm 11, 59

1 Samuel 21-24

Psalm 7, 35, 54, 63

Psalm 56, 120, 140-142

1 Samuel 28-31; Psalm 18

Psalm 121, 123-125, 128-130

2 Samuel 1-4

Psalm 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21

1 Chronicles 3-5

Psalm 73, 77-78

1 Chronicles 6

Psalm 81, 88, 92-93

1 Chronicles 7-10

Psalm 102-104

Easter

30-Day Bible Scripture CHALLENGE #1

<p>Day 1</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:13</p> <p>"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen."</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Colossians 3:3</p> <p>"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:6</p> <p>"who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time..."</p>	<p>Day 4</p> <p>Acts 5:30</p> <p>"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree."</p>	<p>Day 5</p> <p>Romans 6:7</p> <p>"For he who has died has been freed from sin."</p>	<p>Day 6</p> <p>Romans 6:8</p> <p>"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him..."</p>
<p>Day 7</p> <p>Hebrews 2:14</p> <p>"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil..."</p>	<p>Day 8</p> <p>Matthew 16:21</p> <p>"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."</p>	<p>Day 9</p> <p>Isaiah 53:5</p> <p>"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."</p>	<p>Day 10</p> <p>2 Corinthians 13:4</p> <p>"For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you."</p>	<p>Day 11</p> <p>Galatians 2:20</p> <p>"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."</p>	<p>Day 12</p> <p>Matthew 16:21</p> <p>"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."</p>
<p>Day 13</p> <p>Galatians 3:13</p> <p>"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')."</p>	<p>Day 14</p> <p>1 John 1:7</p> <p>"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."</p>	<p>Day 15</p> <p>Romans 8:34</p> <p>"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."</p>	<p>Day 16</p> <p>Titus 2:14</p> <p>"...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works..."</p>	<p>Day 17</p> <p>Galatians 6:14</p> <p>"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."</p>	<p>Day 18</p> <p>Hebrews 9:12</p> <p>"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption..."</p>
<p>Day 19</p> <p>Matthew 26:28</p> <p>"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."</p>	<p>Day 20</p> <p>Acts 10:43</p> <p>"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."</p>	<p>Day 21</p> <p>Ephesians 2:13</p> <p>"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."</p>	<p>Day 22</p> <p>Romans 6:10</p> <p>"For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God."</p>	<p>Day 23</p> <p>Romans 5:8</p> <p>"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."</p>	<p>Day 24</p> <p>Matthew 27:31</p> <p>"And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified."</p>
<p>Day 25</p> <p>Philippians 3:10</p> <p>"...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death..."</p>	<p>Day 26</p> <p>Hebrews 9:22</p> <p>"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."</p>	<p>Day 27</p> <p>John 3:16</p> <p>"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."</p>	<p>Day 28</p> <p>Romans 8:32</p> <p>"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"</p>	<p>Day 29</p> <p>Romans 6:5</p> <p>"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection..."</p>	<p>Day 30</p> <p>Romans 6:6</p> <p>"...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."</p>