



# Faith

CHURCH

The Tapestry  
Faith Church

March  
2024

A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY OF GRACE

IN THIS ISSUE

## Pastor's Ponderings

*By John Armstrong Jr.*

A few more weeks and we will officially observe the Vernal Equinox which will take place at 11:06 PM EDT on Tuesday, March 19th. At that time Spring will have begun and we'll have three months to wait until Summer. There are signs that the seasons are moving on. You are familiar with many of the signs. If you have been paying attention, the robins have already arrived and are patrolling the church yard looking for worms and the daffodils are up and have bloomed. The stars and planets are continuing on in their heavenly dance showing by their subtle changes that we are indeed moving into Spring. As we prepare for the coming of Spring, there are a couple of things we need to take care of first. One of those is we need to have our Tongues of Fire XII Chili Cook-off, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd. Last year we had more entries than ever before. The competition is getting more and more intense, so I hope you will come out and enjoy a great time of fellowship and good cooking. (Continued next page)

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"Flowers  
appear on  
the earth;  
the season  
of singing  
has come."

SONG OF SONGS

2:12





Another coming of Spring event that we will observe is another thing that I enjoy, that is Daylight Savings Time. If you were wondering why the Vernal Equinox is at 11:06 PM EDT, it takes place after Daylight Savings so instead of Eastern Standard Time (EST), we will be in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The only drawback I've ever found to Daylight Savings Time is that you have to "spring forward" an hour when it begins [Nota Bene: This is not an invitation to debate, if you want to argue, I'll most likely ignore what you have to say, I'm well aware there are plenty of people who hold a different view than I do]. No matter what you think about Daylight Savings Time, we will be moving our clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 AM. So, it will be as if, 2:00:00-2:59:59 never existed. It will of course exist; we'll simply call it by another name. "An hour by any other name...."

So, enough of my revelatory ramblings, let's take a look at Spring as a whole. As we enter the month of March we will be moving from Winter into Spring. Think big picture with me, we'll be moving from a season of death and dormancy to a season of new life and rebirth. How appropriate that we will be commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus and then celebrate His triumphal resurrection on Sunday, March 31st. Even the change of seasons helps to declare to us God's grace and mercy to a fallen world. We were dead in the winter of our trespasses and sin (Eph. 2:1ff) and now by God's mercy and great love we are made alive in Christ (Eph. 2:4-10). In Christ it doesn't matter what the season of the year is, it is always Spring. In Christ there is new life, and we find the mercies of God are new every morning. Praise the Lord we have a God who loves us and will not leave us walking in death but calls us into His marvelous light and life (1Pet.2:9). Think deeply about these things as we enjoy the change of seasons this month. 🌸





# Intern's Inklings

By Zach Fiol

## The Seven Churches of Revelation,

### Part III: Letter to the Church of Pergamum: Revelation 2:12-17

The culture is becoming increasingly hostile to Christianity and specifically the local church. Gone are the days when most everyone went to church on a weekly basis. It is now no exaggeration to say that we dwell "where Satan's throne is." The city of Pergamum was similar since it was a city with prevalent idolatry. It was known for its altars to the emperor, Zeus, and the god Aesculapius, who was a god of healing pictured under an emblem of a serpent. This emblem of the serpent represented Satan for many Christians. Pergamum was a heathen place. Yet a church was started there and stayed true to faith in Jesus.

The letter, however, does not end there with that encouragement. There is a significant sin issue in the church of Pergamum. They are compromising with false teachings of "Balaam" and the "Nicolaitans." For context, read Numbers 22-24 to hear about the story of Balaam. The Moabite King named Balak told Balaam to curse the Israelites, but God stopped Balaam from cursing and made Balaam bless Israel instead. Balaam, however, was filled with greed and so he conspired to send Moabite women to seduce the Israelite men and persuade them to take part in sexual sin at the feasts to heathen gods.

The story of Balaam was meant to show how effectively Satan uses sexual temptation to tempt and destroy those in the church. It is also a clear reminder for us to remember Jesus and not become too comfortable in our salvation, thinking that we can never be tempted as Christians. The reality is that we will struggle with sin until we go to heaven, or until Christ comes back.

What is the exhortation for those who compromise with the world? The answer for the Pergamites, and for us today at Faith Church in 2024, is repentance and discipline. Repentance and discipline are incredibly difficult and unpopular. God calls us to repent of sin and turn away from that sin. The church in Pergamum also lacked discipline. If we love the church and the purity of it, then we should desire the accountability that discipline provides. Discipline is primarily meant to restore the individual back to the local church community.

This section closes with an interesting reference to "hidden manna" and "white stone" in verse 17. Hidden manna is a reference to God's provision of food to his chosen people who were wandering in the desert. This is contrasted with the food given to idols in verse 14. We also need to rely upon the sustenance that God gives us. This is a reminder to us as well that we must not compromise the clear message of the Gospel. The white stone is the special righteousness that God gives to us through Jesus, and it is the invitation to the grand wedding feast upon Christ's return.

This all applies to Faith Church today. We must be careful to not compromise the Gospel that is found in Scripture for it is the good news that we must also preach to ourselves in every moment. May we at Faith Church stay true to the Gospel of Jesus, and may we proclaim and show the Gospel to a watching world.



The Faith Family Page

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Tongues of Fire XII

Chili Cook-Off

March 2, 6pm



**Kids' Easter Celebration**  
MARCH 30 10AM



PCA Women's Conference  
April 5-6

For you are all one in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:28

## HAPPENINGS

### WEEKLY

**Sundays:**

- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:15am Fellowship
- 10:45am Worship
- 5:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Youth Group

**Mondays:**

- 7:00pm Adult Choir

**Wednesdays:**

- 12:00 Men's Lunch Bunch
- 6:30pm Praise Team
- 7:00pm Prayer meeting

**Fridays:**

- 10:30am Fiber Friends



## Happy March Birthday!

- 1 Leah Paire
- 3 Chris Johnson
- 5 Ashlynn Snyder
- 6 Daniel Brierly
- 7 George Johnson
- 8 Maryellen Hauver
- 9 Jared Custer
- 13 Elma Boveroux
- 15 Jaclyn Messinger
- 16 Angie Custer
- 26 Zeke Hale

### MONTHLY

**Third Saturdays, (Mar 16th)**

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast
- 8:45am Women's Bible Study

**Third Sundays, (Mar 17th)**

- 12:00pm Fellowship Meal



Lord Jesus,

At the end of March we will celebrate Your Resurrection with great joy and gladness, for in one single event, You brought to fullness Your eternal power in the universe, Your endless victory over the darkness, and Your sublime love for Your people.

Your Father called You forth, the Holy Spirit breathed life back into Your body, and You stepped out of the grave forever! Hallelujah! Your victorious eternal life stands as a guarantee of our own eternal life, without the sorrows and pain of sin.

Grant us the gift of solid faith in these things which we cannot see but we know in the secret places of our hearts. Let the joy of Your resurrection radiate into every relationship, every task, and every conversation so Your glory may defeat the darkness throughout the whole earth. Amen!



# COLOMBIA TEAM REPORT



What a special privilege to provide refreshment and encouragement to our Colombian brothers and sisters in ministry! The team from Faith Church offered a retreat-style Bible conference for these precious ones.

“The trip to Colombia was a tremendous blessing and opportunity to build relationships with our sisters in Christ in a different culture.”  
--Mary

“It was a wonderful time of mutual encouragement and bonding between "us" and "them" and among ourselves as a group and the Colombians as a group. We are more like each other than we realized.”  
--Jacquie

“I really enjoyed watching the men and women of Faith Church engage with and build/strengthen relationships with the pastoral couples in Colombia. In particular, I enjoyed watching the women of Faith build confidence in their ability to teach and interact in a bilingual, cross-cultural setting. Hopefully this is just the beginning of long, fruitful, and rewarding relationships with the church in Colombia.” --Kathryn

“Traveling back to Colombia and seeing old friends and making new ones...\$500. The culture, food and accommodations in both Cali and in Buga...\$700. Being able to teach, share ideas and collaborate with the pastors in Colombia...\$900. Getting to know and love the pastors, their needs and concerns, and praying with and for them...PRICELESS!!! (Note: Monetary amounts are purely illustration and are not actual figures!)”  
--Rich

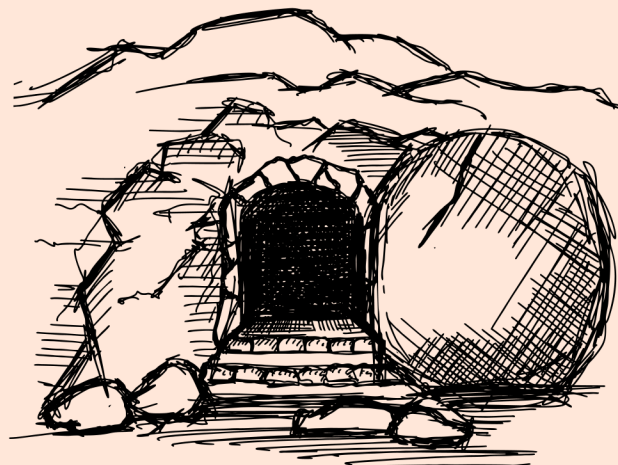
“John and I have been able to slowly develop relationship with a couple of the pastors and their wives in the past few years with the help of human translators and Google Translate. What an amazing time we live in! It has been interesting, rewarding, and humbling to get to know them and learn from them.” --Cyndy





# Tapestry

## For Kids!



**Matthew 28:6**

He is not here for  
He is risen as He said!  
Come, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
where the \_\_\_\_\_ !



For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**JOHN 3:16**

