

Increasing Joy Ministries Inc.

"The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord..." Isaiah 29:19

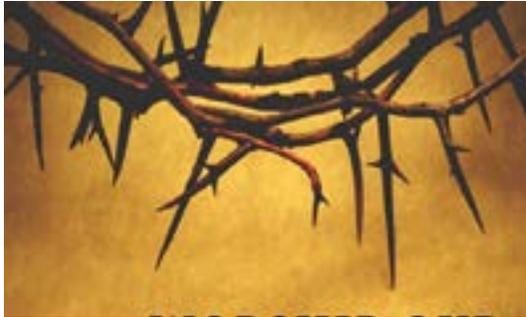
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The newsletter of Increasing Joy Ministries Inc.

Mission Statement

To declare the Gospel which brings willing hearts to a saving faith in Christ Jesus and causes a life of Christ likeness through Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Teaching, and Fellowship.



Worship The King

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Dr. William and
Dr. Barbara DeSue, Pastors

IJM Motto:
Seeking
The Lost
Strengthening
The Saved
Serving Others

The festival of the Passover has been celebrated by Jews for thousands of years. It is the retelling of the great story of how God redeemed the Jewish nation from enslavement in Egypt. The celebration itself was given to the Jews while they were still in Egypt. The original celebration centered around the Passover lamb, which was sacrificed and its blood put over the doorposts as a sign of faith, so that the Lord passed over the houses of the Jews during the last plague poured out on the Egyptians - the killing of every firstborn (Exodus 12). The New Testament says that Jesus is our sacrificial Lamb (1Peter 1). The Passover lamb was to be a "male without defect," which is the same description given to Jesus. In addition, when the lamb was roasted and eaten, none of its bones were to be broken. This fact was also prophesied for the Messiah, whose bones were not to be broken (John 19:36). It was customary during crucifixion to break the leg bones of the person after a few hours in order to hasten their death. The only way a person could breathe when hanging on a cross was to push up with his legs, which was very exhausting. By breaking the legs, death followed soon by asphyxiation. However, in the case of Jesus, they broke the legs of the other two men, but did not break His, since He was already dead.

Much of the symbolism of Jesus' last Passover week is lost to us because we are unaware of the customs of the time. For example, Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem five days before the lamb was killed in the temple as the Passover sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel. Five days before the lamb was to be sacrificed, it was chosen. Therefore, Jesus entered Jerusalem on lamb selection day as the Lamb of God. The people did not understand the significance of this, since they greeted Him with palm branches and hailed Him as King, shouting "Hosanna," which means "save us." However, they were not looking for a spiritual Savior, but a political savior. Palm branches were a symbol of freedom and defiance, since Simon Maccabeus had entered Jerusalem with that symbolism. Jesus' reaction was to weep, since He realized that they did not understand the Messiah's purpose in coming. (Luke 19)



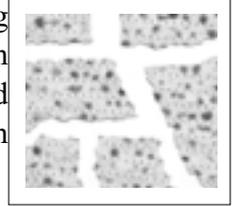
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The day Jesus was crucified was the day of the Passover celebration and the day that the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed. For the previous 1,200 years, the priest would blow the shophar (ram's horn) at 3:00 p.m. - the moment the lamb was sacrificed, and all the people would pause to contemplate the sacrifice for sins on behalf of the people of Israel. At 3:00 pm, when Jesus was being crucified, He said, "It is finished", the moment that the Passover lamb was sacrificed and the shophar was blown from the Temple. The sacrifice of the Lamb of God was fulfilled at the hour that the symbolic animal sacrifice usually took place. At the same time, the veil of the Temple (a three-inch thick, several story high cloth that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies) tore from top to bottom - representing a removal of the separation between God and man (Mark 15:38). Fifty days later, on the anniversary of the giving of the law (Pentecost), God left the earthly temple to inhabit those who call on the name of Jesus through His Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

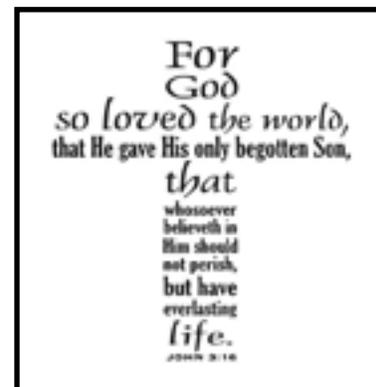
The festival of unleavened bread began Friday evening (at sunset). As part of the festival, the Jews would take some of the grain - the "first fruits" of their harvest - to the Temple to offer as a sacrifice. In so doing, they were offering God all they had and trusting Him to provide the rest of the harvest. It was at this point that Jesus was buried - planted in the ground - as He said right before His death. Paul refers to Jesus as the first fruits of those raised from the dead in 1 Corinthians. As such, Jesus represents the fulfillment of God's promise to provide the rest of the harvest - resurrection of those who follow the Messiah.

Christian symbolism in the Passover occurs early in the Seder (the Passover dinner). Three matzahs are put together (representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The middle matzah is broken, wrapped in a white cloth, and hidden, representing the death and burial of

Jesus. The matzah itself is designed to represent Jesus, since it is striped and pierced, which was prophesied by Isaiah, (Isaiah 53), David (Psalm 22:16) and Zechariah (Zechariah 12:10). Following the Seder meal, the "buried" matzah is "resurrected," which was foretold in the prophecies of David (Psalm 16:10; 30:3; 49:15; 118:17).



It was during a Passover seder (Luke 22:15) that Jesus proclaimed that the meal represented Himself and that He was instituting the New Covenant, which was foretold by Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah (Jeremiah 31:31-33). The celebration of this covenant has become the ordinance of communion in the Christian Church. At the end of the meal, Jesus took the unleavened bread, broke it, and said that it represented His body. Then He took the cup of wine, which would have been the third cup of the Seder - the cup of redemption. He said that it was the new covenant in His blood "poured out for you" (Luke 22:20). It is through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are declared clean before God, allowing those of us who choose to accept the pardon, to commune with Him, both now and forevermore through the eternal life He offers.



Pastors William and Barbara DeSue



The Necessary Medical Tests For Men

A few weeks ago, the church held a 2019 Health Seminar during which passionate speakers made a strong case about healthy living. A wealth of information ranging from consumption of plant-based food, herbal seasonings, oral/dental care, essential oils to reduction of carbohydrates was generously shared. Most, if not all, of the information was geared toward a proactive therapeutic lifestyle. It is in keeping with the spirit of this healthy living that this article emerges.

It is a well-documented but sad statistics that men live an average of 10 years less than women. It is also a statistical fact that one third of men do not go for medical check-ups even when there are obvious symptoms of a health problem. If you are a follower of Christ, or a member of this church in particular, you must know that such statistics are unacceptable. Why? You may ask. Well, it is because we have been studying the book and Series “Kingdom Man” by Dr Tony Evans. As kingdom men, we are admonished to live our lives under the Lordship and rulership of Jesus Christ; impacting our wives, our families, and communities thus maintaining a proper vertical alignment. This is not a bossy hierarchical arrangement, it is rather a spiritual position with incredible responsibility and accountability on the part of the man. Therefore, we must lead by example in every aspect of our living, including the maintenance of our health. If you are not a Christ’s follower, it becomes a matter of social prudence that a reasonable man would not intentionally want to leave his wife 10 years alone. So, let us all follow our healthy living, by way of exercise and food consumption, with life-saving screenings as listed below.

HEART TEST. The most revealing and simplest heart test is the blood pressure. It is believed that a blood pressure above 130/80 is a red flag. It is also important to double check your blood pressure somewhere else other than the doctor’s office to avoid a “white coat” syndrome; being anxious in the doctor’s office can increase your blood pressure. Another heart test is the fasting blood test for Cholesterol and Triglycerides: HDL is the good cholesterol while the LDL is the bad cholesterol. The third test is the tape test; Forty (40) inches around your waist is concerning.

Except for auto accidents and gunshots, heart disease is the leading cause of death in young men. So, the earlier you start the better.



TESTICULAR EXAM. It is important that men between the age of 18 – 40 have a testicular exam. Your doctors will show you the proper technique on a self-exam. This can lead to early detection of Testicular Cancer and a better prognosis. The good news is that the risk of TESTICULAR cancer diminishes after the age of 40. However, the bad news is that after the age of 50, the risk of PROSTATE cancer increases.

PROSTATE EXAM. After the age of 50, (45 for black men) every man should consider having a prostate exam. The type of test will be determined by your doctor. It could be a blood test called prostate-specific antigen (PSA) or a rectal exam. Although there has been some controversies about the usefulness of rectal exam, it still remains an important detection tools for prostate cancer. Caution, please do not engage in “intimacy” or ride a bike 48 hours before a PSA test as this can lead to a false result. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 2.9 men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer in the United State are still alive today. Although no one desires it, but diagnosis is not a death sentence.

COLONOSCOPY. This Colon cancer screening should begin effectively at age 50. Colonoscopy might sound uncomfortable, but it is a life saving procedure. It can also help detect polyps as well as diverticulitis. These two can be treated before they become bigger problems. One in twenty American men have colon cancer. This is one of the most aggressive cancers and early detection is critical for survival.

SKIN EXAM. Women are more likely to use sunscreen than men. Skin cancer does not discriminate. There is nothing “macho” about a man not using sunscreen to protect his skin from sun radiation. Generally, a sunscreen with 30 or higher Sun Protection Factor (SPF) should be good enough. Remember, no sunscreen can block 100% of the sun radiation.

As Kingdom men, we must be accountable to Christ and responsible for our families. What better way to do this than living by example. Let’s get these screenings done.

Screening information for ladies shall follow in next month’s newsletter. This is merely informational, please consult your doctor before making any medical decisions.

Brother Chris Ukpong

Bully Elephants!

But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble! Psalms. 59:16

The person who wrote the above passage must have faced some serious bullies.

There are bullies roaming around. These particular bullies are not the ones that strike conveniently at a whim. Each bully takes its time, slowly moving to gain strategic advantage over anyone who will give into the effects of the tactics employed. As the victim moves to become more bound by the processes of the bullies, the more the individual succumbs to the bullies and their aims.

Then there is the attack!

The bullies circle, picking on the victim,(or so it is perceived). Taking swipes is not something new as the bully tests defenses, employs an army of tactics, including additional cohorts, locations and even the most effective tactic, which is time to catch the object off guard. Well, by now, I'm almost certain that you are asking:

“What is Bro. Wenston talking about with all of this “bully business”? Surely, he must have experienced some type of bullying. Well, all I can say is that the bully becomes the elephant in the room, if not dealt with properly. Sometimes, there are multiple bullies in that one huge elephant in the room. I can only speak for myself when I say that we are constantly having to put the bullies in check.

Our spiritual walk depends on it!

Let's talk about some of these bullies and how God's Word and a strong relationship with Jesus helps us cope and overcome.

Fear?

God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of love power and a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

Loneliness?

I will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

Weakness?

When I am weak, He is strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Trying to get along with people?

Love thy neighbor as thyself. Mark 12:31

Poverty or lack?

Man's life doesn't consist of the things he possesses. Luke 12:15

Procrastination?

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Unsettled mind?

Why art thou cast down oh my soul, why art thou disquieted in me...hope thou in God? Psalm 42:5

Don't know who to trust?

Trust the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

I'm sure you can think of a couple as well.

Well, you get the picture. Let's combat these bullies. We have to first make sure we have our advocate with the Father, which is Jesus Christ. Then, apply these “bully fighting tactics” in our everyday life.

I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:1-2 NIV

Amen!

We are victorious. Now go eat these bully elephants up, one Word at a time.

Brother Wenston DeSue

Know Your Bible - The Book of Mark

Author: Although the Gospel of Mark does not name its author, it is the unanimous testimony of early church fathers that Mark was the author. He was an associate of the Apostle Peter, and evidently his spiritual son (1 Peter 5:13). From Peter he received first-hand information of the events and teachings of the Lord, and preserved the information in written form.

It is generally agreed that Mark is the John Mark of the New Testament (Acts 12:12). His mother was a wealthy and prominent Christian in the Jerusalem church, and probably the church met in her home. Mark joined Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but not on the second because of a strong disagreement between the two men (Acts 15:37-38). However, near the end of Paul's life he called for Mark to be with him (2 Timothy 4:11).

Date of Writing: The Gospel of Mark was likely one of the first books written in the New Testament, probably in A.D. 55-59.

Purpose of Writing: Whereas Matthew is written primarily to his fellow Jews, Mark's gospel appears to be targeted to the Roman believers, particularly Gentiles. Mark wrote as a pastor to Christians who previously had heard and believed the Gospel (Romans 1:8). He desired that they have a biographical story of Jesus Christ as Servant of the Lord and Savior of the world in order to strengthen their faith in the face of severe persecution and to teach them what it meant to be His disciples.

Key Verses:

Mark 1:11: "And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'"

Mark 1:17: "'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"

Mark 10:14-15: "He said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'"

Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 12:33: "To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Mark 16:6: "'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.'"

Mark 16:15: "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'"

Brief Summary: This gospel is unique because it emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching. It is simply written, moving quickly from one episode in the life of Christ to another. It does not begin with a genealogy as in Matthew, because Gentiles would not be interested in His lineage. After the introduction of Jesus at His baptism, Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and called the first four of His twelve disciples. What follows is the record of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Mark's account is not just a collection of stories, but a narrative written to reveal that Jesus is the Messiah, not only for the Jews, but for the Gentiles as well. In a dynamic profession, the disciples, led by Peter, acknowledged their faith in Him (Mark 8:29-30), even though they failed to understand fully His Messiahship until after His resurrection.

As we follow His journeys through Galilee, the surrounding ar-

east, and then to Judea, we realize what a rapid pace He set. He touched the lives of many people, but He left an indelible mark on His disciples. At the transfiguration (Mark 9:1-9), He gave three of them a preview of His future return in power and glory, and again it was revealed to them who He was.

However, in the days leading to His final trip to Jerusalem, we see them bewildered, fearful and doubting. At Jesus' arrest, He stood alone after they fled. In the following hours of the mock trials, Jesus boldly proclaimed that He is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One, and that He would be triumphant at His return (Mark 14:61-62). The climactic events surrounding the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection were not witnessed by most of His disciples. But several faithful women did witness His passion. After the Sabbath, early in the morning of the first day of the week, they went to the tomb with burial spices. When they saw the stone had been rolled away, they entered the tomb. It was not the body of Jesus they saw, but an angel robed in white. The joyful message they received was, "He is risen!" Women were the first evangelists, as they spread the good news of His resurrection. This same message has been broadcast throughout the world in the following centuries down to us today.

Connections: Because Mark's intended audience was the Gentiles, he does not quote as frequently from the Old Testament as Matthew, who was writing primarily to the Jews. He does not begin with a genealogy to link Jesus with the Jewish patriarchs, but begins instead with His baptism, the beginning of His earthly ministry. But even there, Mark quotes from an Old Testament prophecy regarding the messenger—John the Baptist—who would exhort the people to "prepare the way for the Lord" (Mark 1:3; Isaiah 40:3) as they awaited the coming of their Messiah.

Jesus does refer to the Old Testament in several passages in Mark. In Mark 7:6, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their superficial worship of God with their lips while their hearts were far from Him and refers to their own prophet, Isaiah, to convict them of their hardheartedness (Isaiah 29:13). Jesus referred to another Old Testament prophecy which was to be fulfilled that very night as the disciples would be scattered like sheep without a shepherd when Jesus was arrested and put to death (Mark 14:27; Zechariah 13:7). He referred again to Isaiah when He cleansed the Temple of the money-changers (Mark 11:15-17; Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11) and to the Psalms when He explained that He was the chief Cornerstone of our faith and of the Church (Mark 12:10-11; Psalm 118:22-23).

Practical Application: Mark presents Jesus as the suffering Servant of God (Mark 10:45) and as the One who came to serve and sacrifice for us, in part to inspire us to do the same. We are to minister as He did, with the same greatness of humility and devotion to the service of others. Jesus exhorted us to remember that to be great in God's kingdom, we must be the servant of all (Mark 10:44). Self-sacrifice should transcend our need for recognition or reward, just as Jesus was willing to be abased as He lay down His life for the sheep.

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross by Isaac Watts (1707)

Isaac Watts was one of the most prolific of all English hymn writers. Today, he is referred to as the “Father of English Hymnody.” Out of his nearly 800 hymn texts “When I Survey” is considered to be his best and most poignant. Watts wrote the song to help Christians be “prepared for the Holy Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper.” The song brings the believer from personal reflection to bold testimony, to total surrender. “Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.”

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Meditating in God’s Word: The Cross gained our liberty...

Mark 8:34 - And when he had called the people [unto him] with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

1 Corinthians 1:18 - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 10:38 - And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mark 15:30 - Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 14:27 - And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Colossians 2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:1 - [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.



FOOD COMMODITIES

Distribution

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Time: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider...

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please call 941-721-0684 or e-mail us at increasingjoy@verizon.net

Selah! The Cross of Calvary

Through the death of Christ on the cross making atonement for sin, we get a perfect standing before God. That is justification, and it puts us, in God's sight, back in Eden before sin entered. God looks upon us and treats us as if we had never sinned. A.C. Dixon

There is in the heart of every man or woman, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, a sense of guilt and condemnation. Bunyan made it a heavy pack on the back of Pilgrim; and he did not lose it until he reached the Cross of Christ. When we realize how guilty sin is, and how condemned is the sinner, we begin to feel the weight of that load. A.C. Dixon

The cross stands for definite realities which embody and express the leading characteristics of Christ's agony. A.W. Pink

God grades on the Cross not on the curve. Adrian Roger

We believe that to Christ belongs creative power--that "without Him was not anything made which was made." We believe that from Him came all life at first. In Him life was as in its deep source. He is the fountain of life. We believe that as no being comes into existence without His creative power, so none continues to exist without His sustaining energy. We believe that the history of the world is but the history of His influence, and that the centre of the whole universe is the cross of Cavalry. Alexander MacLaren

The cross is a one time, visual representation of God's grief over sin. Author unknown

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you." Billy Graham

Look at Him at Gethsemane, sweating as it were great drops of blood; look at Him on the cross, crucified between two thieves; hear that piercing cry, "Father, Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." And as you look into that face, as you look into those wounds on His feet or His hands, will you say He has not the power to save you? Will you say He has not the power so redeem you? D.L. Moody

We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world. Franklin Graham

APOSTLE'S CREED

According to Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry; this creed arose out of the early Western church and should be thought of as a summary of the Apostles' teaching rather than directly attributable to them. Originally it was essentially a baptismal confession and had several variations. The form used today dates from the eighth century and reads as follows:

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried and He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again and sitteth at the right hand of the Father, From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen"

*Catholic meaning the universal church.

The Ten Commandments

- I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
- IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- V. Honour thy father and thy mother.
- VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Mission Statement

To declare the Gospel which brings willing hearts to a saving faith in Christ Jesus and causes a life of Christ likeness through Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Teaching, and Fellowship.

Increasing Joy Ministries

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WE OWE GOD!

April 2019 Events

The Passover Feast - April 19th - 27th

Corporate Prayer - 2nd Friday

Passover Celebration - April 19th - 27th

Good Friday - April 19th

Resurrection Sunday - April 21st

Resurrection Monday - April 22nd

May 2019 Upcoming Events

Corporate Prayer - 2nd Friday

Mother's Day Tea - May 11th

Mother's Day - May 12th

Commemoration Celebration - May 18th - 26th

Founders Breakfast - May 18th

Baptism Services - May 25th

Fellowship Picnic - May 25th

Ministry Schedule

Sunday 10:45 AM
Worship Service

First Sunday 4:00 PM
Communion Service

Tuesday
Prayer 6:15 PM
Worship Service
7:15 PM

Prayer (2nd Fridays)
6:30 PM

Lunch In The Word
Wednesdays 11:00 AM