



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE –

Jesus' death and resurrection is the core of the Christian faith. God had a plan to redeem and save those He created and loves and it would be done through the death of His own Son. Our sin and rebellion against God came at a great price. It was a price that Christ was willing to pay on our behalf. His resurrection is what gives us the hope and confidence that we can live and experience His great love now and for all eternity.

Max Lucado, in his book *God Came Near*, illustrates what was behind the plan of the cross:

Jesus' death was not the result of a panicking, cosmological engineer. The cross wasn't a tragic surprise. Calvary was not a knee-jerk response to a world plummeting towards destruction. It wasn't a patch-job or a stop-gap measure. The death of the Son of God was anything but an unexpected peril.

No, it was part of a plan. It was a calculated choice. "It was the LORD's will to crush him." The cross was drawn into the original blueprint. It was written into the script. The moment the forbidden fruit touched the lips of Eve, the shadow of a cross appeared on the horizon. And between that moment and the moment the man with the mallet placed the spike against the wrist of God, a master plan was fulfilled.



What does that mean? It means Jesus planned His own sacrifice.

It means Jesus intentionally planted the tree from which His cross would be carved.

It means He willingly placed the iron ore in the heart of the earth from which the nails would be cast.

It means He voluntarily placed His Judas in the womb of a woman.

It means Christ was the one who set in motion the political machinery that would send Pilate to Jerusalem.

And it also means He didn't have to do it—but He did.

It was no accident—would that it had been! Even the cruelest of criminals is spared the agony of having his death sentence read to him before his life even begins. But Jesus was born crucified. The cross-shaped shadow could always be seen....

This is why the ropes used to tie His hands and the soldiers used to lead Him to the cross were unnecessary. They were incidental. Had they not been there, had there been no trial, no Pilate and no crowd, the very same crucifixion would have occurred. Had Jesus been forced to nail Himself to the cross, He would have done it. For it was not the soldiers who killed Him, nor the screams of the mob. It was His devotion to us.

Look at the deadness in your life. Look at the anger. How is that going to be turned into forgiveness? Look at the insecurity. How is that going to be turned into confidence? Look at the self-centeredness. How is that going to be turned into compassion and generosity?

How?

The answer is that the dead stuff gets taken over by the Spirit of God....The moment you receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit comes into your life. It's the power of the resurrection—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

April 2017

Here am I. Send me!

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"



Messiah in the Passover
Participate in a Jewish Passover Seder
Using the Traditional Elements
Presented by Rev. Israel Cohen
Chosen People Ministries

Saturday, April 8
5:00 p.m.
Sign-up Sheets at Both Church Entrances

WHAT PASSOVER CELEBRATES

As in all Biblical holidays, Passover is both a holiday of remembrance and a holiday of prophecy. Passover for the Jewish people is the annual celebration of God delivering Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 12). The entire service, with its various ceremonies, is designed to help the Jewish people remember the great workings of God when, through signs and wonders, He freed the Jewish people from the bondage of the Egyptians and delivered them to the promised land of Israel. Passover is a holiday of redemption picturing how God used the death of an innocent lamb to redeem the firstborn sons of Israel from death and free the nation of Israel from slavery.

Passover is certainly the most important Biblical holiday for Christians. It also clearly pictures the redemption Jesus provided for our sin. The last meal Jesus ate with His disciples in the Upper Room was a Passover meal. It was during this Passover meal that Jesus took a piece of unleavened bread and a cup of the fruit of the vine and said to His disciples that these represented His body given in death and His blood shed for the remission of sins (Luke 22:19, 20). The Messiah used the story of the redemption from Egypt to illustrate the redemption Jesus provided for us on the cross. Having a Passover dinner is a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus in its historical, New Testament setting as it was celebrated by the disciples with the Messiah. We can rejoice "For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

HOW PASSOVER IS CELEBRATED

Through the centuries since it was first instituted by God as the Israelites came out of Egypt, many traditions have been added to the Passover celebration. Yet, the basic elements of the Passover found in the original instructions are still present, including the bitter herb, the matzo (unleavened bread), and the Passover lamb. For centuries, the Passover tradition was celebrated based upon traditions handed down orally. Eventually, these oral traditions were put into writing called the Haggadah. The word "Haggadah" is taken from Hebrew meaning "to tell" (Exodus 13:8). Though there are many different variations in the Haggadah, they all contain the basic outlines of the service that dates back to antiquity. The MESSIANIC PASSOVER HAGGADAH takes the basic

traditional outlines but adds the Messianic significance to the Passover as given by the Messiah and recorded in the Scriptures.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
APRIL 14
7:00 P.M.

HE IS RISEN!!
Celebrate our Risen Savior
Easter Sunday - April 16

7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service
 Outdoors under the Pavilion - Weather Permitting

Breakfast - Sign-up sheets are posted at church entrances

Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Bring your own basket)

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service with Communion
 and Cantata—"Come to the Cross and Remember"
 A 35 minute cantata presented by GBC's Voices of Praise. Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images of His sacrificial love for us: the Palms, the Cup and the Bread, the Nails, the Crown of Thorns, and more. These images form the centerpiece of *Come to the Cross and Remember*. During simple choir/congregation interludes, each of the images is brought forward to create a very moving tableau. Additional choruses and hymns illuminate the journey, including the haunting "Go to Dark Gethsemane," the spine-tingling "Judas," the mournful "Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs," the transportive "You Will Be with Me in Paradise," and the majestic "Every Knee Should Bow."

No Evening Service / Activities

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Sunday:	8:15	Contemporary Worship
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:45	Traditional Worship
	6:30	Against the Flow Youth
	6:30	Evening Worship Service
Wednesday:	7:00	Bible Study & Prayer for Adults / Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett
Assistant Pastor

MEET GBC'S NEW DEACON—TED GROVE



After being married to a beautiful lady, Linda, for 48 years, God wanted her for His needs in Heaven and she left for His work on 1/15/17. We have two adult sons and 7 grandchildren. Upon graduating from Dover Area High School, I attended Grace College of the Bible (now Grace University) in Omaha graduating with a BA in the Pre-Seminary program, but never felt called to go to seminary or take on

the role as a pastor. Before retirement, I always worked as a Manufacturing Engineer or later as a Manager (even as a consultant). After obtaining an MBA from York College, I was able to add the role of Adjunct Faculty at Penn State, Penn College of Technology (in Williamsport) and ITT Technical Institute (in Harrisburg). In the mid-1980s, I served as a Deacon in a new church, under the guidance and support of GBC, in the New Oxford area. We moved to Lycoming County for 15 years and then moved back to York County. I had the honor of serving as Deacon for most of those years as well. My favorite (and most challenging) verse is Philippians 3:4 - *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* If Paul could rejoice considering all he endured, we should be able to rejoice as well.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), make a meal and deliver it or stay and eat with them, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Kline
Russ Hearton
Jack Goeke

Carol Sarver
John Gay
Nina Johnson
Gerry Gladfelder
Wanda Buttrey

PURCHASE SUBS OR PRETZEL SANDWICHES

Help Support Mission Projects/Trips
Orders Due Sunday, April 2

Pick up or have delivered Wednesday, April 12
Additional order sheets are available on the table in back of the sanctuary and the downstairs usher stand. If you don't want to purchase a sandwich, envelopes are available to make a donation



A Few Words From
Pastor Jon:

2 Sam. 16:5-14 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His

name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. **6** He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. **7** As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel!" **8** The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!" **9** Then Abishai son of Neriah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head." **10** But the king said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Neriah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'why do you do this?'" **11** David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. **12** It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today." **13** So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt. **14** The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

When someone falsely accuses you or rises up against you unfairly, are you sometimes shocked by it? Maybe even paralyzed by the situation? I'll raise my hand.

We know our fight is **not** against flesh and blood, that the devil is a roaring lion looking to devour every single follower of Christ. We know that our flesh so desperately wants its' own way and wars against the Spirit living within us. We know that this world is full of trouble. In fact, Jesus said in this world we **would** have trouble! But even after all of that, I am still caught off guard. Why? Well, I don't know anyone that loves confrontation. It makes us uncomfortable. Nevertheless, look at how King David responded after being falsely accused.

His identity was firmly established in God Almighty, first of all. Additionally, he was abiding with God closely so as a result he did not respond according to his own desires. Here we find Shimei cursing at David and throwing rocks at him! Remember, this was **King** David! What an example proving that we should never burry our heads in the sand thinking we won't be falsely accused and attacked at times. But, how can we glorify God in our responses **when** we are faced with this type of situation?

David's men wanted to cut Shimei's head off. How about we cross that option off our list right from the start! So what is the proper and godly response? Look at verse **11-12**: David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own

flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! **Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.**"

David trusted in God's sovereignty. He knew that God was good, and that meant in **every** single situation. This is a perfect example because many situations we face will not be enjoyable or comfortable. It is in these situations that He teaches us the most so we must trust Him. Second, David was so secure in his identity in God that he did not feel the need to justify or defend himself. His battle belonged to the Lord. Does that mean we don't respond at all ever when falsely accused? No. Jesus never called us to be doormats. However, He **has** called us to respond (not react) in a godly way and the Holy Spirit enables us to do just that if we are willing to submit to Him.

When we are falsely accused, we can respond instead of reacting via our sinful flesh. Will we always do this perfectly? No. But Scriptures like these above remind us that as believers we are to look at the big picture. The big picture is not about getting revenge or making sure we are heard in every situation. Those things do not have much eternal value anyway. Instead, we can choose to focus on things that have eternal value. We **can** respond to glorify our Lord no matter what we are faced with. This is something that is challenging yet obtainable in Christ.

Lastly, we see David at the end of this altercation. Here was his chance to retaliate. This was the last straw, right? Enough was enough! It's as if injury was being added to insult. Still, rocks were being thrown at him along with dirt now and Shimei was not quitting with the cursing. But David and his men just continued on their way and they were eventually refreshed. When we come to the Holy Spirit asking for help in these situations, and we respond with brotherly love, He will refresh us. It may not be in our time, but His timing is always perfect. So, with His power, we can back up, look at the big picture and see that it does not profit us to throw rocks back at others, no matter what we are accused of. We can calmly refresh in our Lord Jesus, as He is our treasure and our identity is found in Him!

SHARING EVENTS FROM THE YOUTH WINTER RETREAT



FOLDING BULLETINS

Folding bulletins is a task that needs to be done at GBC every week. It can be viewed as therapeutic, redundant, or therapeutic-redundancy; it isn't one of the glorious jobs at church, but it is important to The Glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31 "...whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God."

Folding bulletins presents challenges: Hand/eye coordination, patience, and thinking; especially when you have to stuff inserts and make sure all the edges are even. Whew!

This job can easily be accomplished in an hour, however if you read it first then pray for all the services, music, calendar of events and special programs (like VBS) as you fold & stuff, it could take an hour and fifteen minutes. I Thess. 5: 16-18.

Whatever your task, at church or anywhere, give it to the Lord in prayer. You not only accomplish what is needed, but you put your trust and faith in the King of Kings. Redundancy can never exist when He is in control.

When you "fold the bulletins" of your life, do it for Him and receive the true blessing that He dispenses.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 4

GBC will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. for you to come pray (by yourself or get a group together to come pray with you) at your convenience and stay as long as you are able.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

Why should believers take a day to focus on prayer? Why pray for our families, our friends, and the needs and challenges facing America?

Simply put, God invites us to do so and promises a blessing when we do. In the book of 2 Chronicles, God says, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (7:14).

God's looking for four things from us, starting with humility. Boy, that's a tough one. We can be so proud of our accomplishments, our inventions, our lifestyles – you name it. I'm afraid humility isn't one of our strengths as a nation.

The second thing God desires is to talk with us, to engage in the dialogue of prayer. About the only prayer I knew growing up was one of those stock prayers recited over meals. Now that I'm older, I know what God longs for is an ongoing conversation with us. He cares about the details of our lives. He invites us to bring to Him our fears, pain, sadness, confession, joy, hopes, dreams – you name it, He's waiting for us to talk with Him about it.

Third, He wants us to seek His face. I've read that the word "seek" carries with it the sense of pursuing God with a "burning desire." With passion. With gusto. At some points in life that is not as easy, is it? Ever wonder why not? Maybe a good place to start is to ask Him that question: Why am I not passionate about seeking Your face at this time in my life?

Finally, God wants us to experience the freedom and joy that comes through confession and turning from our sin. It's one thing to say, "I'm sorry God for my sinful choices" and another thing to do something about it, namely, turning from our sin and embracing what's right.

Jim Daly, Focus on the Family

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "OPERATION ARCTIC"

June 29 – 23
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Age 3 through Grade 8

Beginning with 9th graders through adults—sign up to help make this a thrilling expedition for our children as they uncover the coolest book on the planet—the Bible. You're sure to have a flurry of fun and excitement! Sign-up sheets are on the door downstairs.

MAIL OR EMAIL A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY CARD TO OUR MISSIONARIES

Tina Hildebrand (4/6)
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But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
– JOHN 20:31 NIV

