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Paul's Ponderings... 🤌

Understanding the Meaning of the Cross

Why did Jesus have to die on a cross?

Most of us who grew up in the church come to this question with a widespread pre-understanding. Jesus died on a cross for the sins of the world. His death was central to God's plan of salvation. Jesus' death was necessary. Jesus had to die to atone for our sins.

For many Christians today atonement has come to be identified with particular theological concept а called "Substitutionary Atonement". In order for God to forgive sins a substitutionary sacrifice must be of-An ordinary human being fered. could not be the sacrifice because that person is a sinner and would be dying only for their own sins. The sácrifice must be a perfect human being. Only Jesus was perfect, spotless, and without blemish. Only Christ's substitutionary death makes our forgiveness possible.

This concept of Substitutionary Atonement was not fully developed until the writings of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1087. The Doctrine of Substitutionary Atonement came to the forefront during the Protestant Reformation and is widely accepted by many Christians today.

However, seeing Jesus' death primarily within the framework of Substitutionary Atonement is not totally faithful to the writings of the Apostle Paul. Paul does use sacrificial imagery, yet this is but one of the many images he uses to speak of the meaning of Jesus' death on a cross.

In my studies the dominant image Paul uses is that the cross is the revelation of the path of personal transformation. We are transformed by dying and rising with Christ. Each of us are to participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Several modern day schOLArs call this concept "Participatory Atonement".

For Paul, Christ crucified and risen revealed the way to life "in Christ". Here it functions as a metaphor for the path of personal transformation. It involves an internal death and resurrection. It means dying to an old identity and way of life and rising to a new identity and new way of life.

This understanding emphasizes atonement through participation. We participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus and thereby enter into a new life in Christ. Participatory Atonement does not mean that Jesus died for us so therefore we don't need to. Instead, it means we are to die and rise with Christ. It is a metaphor for a process of radical internal change.

This was actually Paul's own experience. He summed it up in a single sentence in his letter to the Galatians. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live but it is Christ who lives in me." (2:19-20) Whereas Jesus' crucifixion was literal, Paul's was metaphorical and this metaphorical meaning...its more than literal meaning...is clear. Paul had experienced an internal crucifixion and a new Paul had been born.

Paul uses the language of Participatory Atonement, not just for himself but for all who would live their life in Christ. In his letter to the Romans he writes about dying and rising with Christ as the meaning of baptism. "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (6:3-4) The result of Participatory Atonement is personal transformation and renewal. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect." (12:2). Personal transformation through Participatory Atonement includes a transformed way of seeing the world and a renewal in the ability to discern the will of God.

For Paul the death and resurrection of Jesus was salvific - it had saving significance. For Paul the cross was our salvation. In Christianity today the most common understanding of salvation is that it is something that happens to us after we die. But, for Paul, salvation was about life before death. "Christ died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. (2 Cor. 5:15)

Dying and rising with Christ through Participatory Atonement was for Paul a matter of personal transformation. It was a metaphorical dying to an old way and rising to a new way of life in Christ. And, this transformation for believers happens now, in this life, so that each of us will be instrumental in bringing about the "way" of Jesus on earth and right now.



Prayers for Chapel Friends:

Patty and Jackie Madden, Jack Sealey, Phyllis Mahin, Anthony Tuliano, Janet Hegeman, Ellie



Lyons, Evangeline Caliandro, Laurie Stevens, Little Daniel Auman, Koran Sanders, Cami Thistles, Mary Faas, Israel Duncan, Olivia Mcdonald, Lerici Racine, Jamie Raskin, Joe Currie, Kevin Carter, Sharon Thomas, Neida Crow, Kerra Paduano, Kathy Steele, Abbe Theodore, Harry Wahlquist, Walter Hundley, Shelton Raynor, Rev. Bill and Marty

Bruner, Dorothy McInnis, Scott Olson, Norma McKeithan, the people of Ukraine and Syria, the people of East Palestine Ohio, and the family of Carol Meszaros.

Prayers for Chapel Family:

George Hoffman, Bud Holzerland, Nancee Letter, Jane and Jeff Lowe, Dave Westerman, Joan Tourt, Meta Evans, Charles Hinson, Tamara Lee, Jon Tichenor, Peggy Reuter, Butch and Mary Kay Allen, Katy Swain, Esther Robinson, Carol and the Scantlin family, Pat and the family of Dick Weber, family of Ed Chapman, and Jim Beck's family upon the death of his sister Linda.



President's Corner

Happy Spring Everyone



Officially Spring is here and that nasty pollen we all hate is covering everything. This is a sign of renewal, the rebirth of our trees and flowers. It is perfect timing. All the dogwoods are in bloom symbolizing the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. I love this time of year, the freshness of all the flowers, the warmer weather, and longer days, all make it the Perfect time of year.

With Easter only two weeks away we have many activities at The Chapel that I hope you will be able to attend. The schedule on the website, and in your email or a hard copy can be picked up at the office.

This time of year also brings up needed maintenance around the Chapel. The Building and Grounds Team has several projects that have been completed. The roof leak around the bell tower has been repaired. The windows in the belltower are scheduled to be replaced with glass panes in the next month. The sinking sidewalk in the courtyard leading to the door is being repaired in the next month as well.

The largest project that needs to be done is replacing the whole roof over the entire building. This is something that needs to be done. We are finalizing the quote's and will be taking the project to the Board once that is done. Once we have all the information and the Board has approved the project, I will be putting it out to the community on constant contact including all the details.

The Rummage Sale is only a few weeks away so make sure to clean out, "your trash is another's treasure," to help the Mission Team have a successful Sale.

The Chapels Men's Group has had a great start with two meetings under our belt. If you are a man and would like to participate in the Men's Fellowship we are meeting on Saturday, April 1st at 8:00 am.

I want to thank everyone for your participation in the Music and Service questionnaire. We will be publishing the results soon. We are still searching for our new Music and Choir Director. Your responses to the survey will be helpful.

The Board is always working on your behalf to make your Chapel experiences wonderful as they can be.

Happy Easter

George Norman - President



Team Updates

Worship Team

The Worship Committee is very happy with the success of our first Covered Dish Brunch. We are moving right along, planning things and getting prepared for Easter. And YAY! The Choir is making a brief return, Hallelujah!

Palm Sunday will be April 2nd at 9:00 am, and we will shake, rattle and roll our palm branches and sing, "Hosanna in the highest heaven? Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"





Maundy Thursday

Our Chapel in the Pines Maundy Thursday

Supper this year will take place on Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. The Maundy Thursday Supper this year will the annual supper of Soup, Bread, and Dessert, and is covered dish. There are two things we are doing differently here this year:

Number one: We Will be asking people to sign up for reservations. The reason for that is...

Number two: We will be having the dinner services, and Holy Communion inside the Fellowship Hall.

There will not be any services inside the Sanctuary.

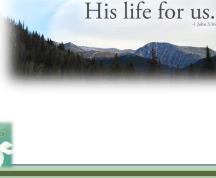
Yes, folks, you read that correctly. We can seat and feed a maximum amount of 92 people. Reservations are necessary, AND the service and Holy Communion will all be done in the Fellowship Hall.





Our Good Friday Service will be

Friday, April 7 at noon.



By this we know

that He laid down

Easter Sunday will of course be on Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m. For those with green thumbs and gardens, please remember to come a bit earlier than usual fill the cross with all the colors of spring. For those of us who have no such gift of gardening, pick up a bouquet of flowers to add to the flowers. It's beautiful and uplifting sight when completed.



Míssíon Team

March 10th. Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 14th at 10AM in the Library.

This may sound a bit redundant, but we have been busy bees preparing for our annual Rummage Sale!

Our focus continues to be preparing for the Rummage Sale on April 22nd. Our collection strategy continues to be working well. We have gotten a lot of beautiful donations. The items have been sorted and placed in strategic areas in the Choir Room. After the items are priced and boxed it is easy to place additional items without guessing. We currently are accepting donations from our chapel family and our community.

We will ask for volunteers to work the day of the sale. We will send out an email. Please start thinking about helping with this wonderful cause. We will have designated time slots. (8AM-10AM/10AM-Noon/Clean-up Crew). The Clean up Crew is one of the most crucial areas. We will be clearing the tables of unsold items and boxing them. They will be placed in the Kids Zone for pick up from a local charity.

Fríday, Apríl 21, 2023 10am–Noon

Not to break with tradition we will have a bake sale and a 50/50 Raffle. We depend on all of our wonderful bakers to come together and donate baked goods. Before you know it, it will be time to pull out your tried-and-true recipes. When packaging cookies, please put 4-6 cookies in a zip loc baggie with a label indicating what it is. If you make a cake, a suggestion may be to cut it



in half for the sale. It seems as though a lot of people will buy a smaller amount. Breads (banana bread, zucchini bread, etc) can be sliced and put into baggies for the sale too. We hope Katie bakes some of her favorites this year. We are blessed with lots of good bakers! We will price the items as they come in. If you could please bring the baked goods to the Fellowship Hall between 10AM-Noon on Friday, April 21st it would be greatly appreciated.

April 22, 2023

Last spring the Rummage Sale made \$4,049.00. This will be our number to beat. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 8:00 AM-12:00PM. We hope many of you will be willing and able to work the sale with us. We will be setting up for the sale on Wednesday, April 19- Friday, April 21st.

If you need any more information please contact Joyce Singletary or Tracey Olsen as well as any Mission Team Member. You may also call Susan at the Chapel Office. We will be running an ad in the Seven Lakes Times as well as putting flyers in the post offices on all 3 sides and at the Seven Lakes Fitness Center. We will have an e-blast on the North/South Family Facebook and on the West Side Family Facebook. We continue to discuss new ways of fundraising. More will follow.



Building and Grounds



- **Sidewalk Repair**: The concrete sidewalk replacement work is expected to be completed by March 21st. Work will include excavation, backfill and pouring of approximately forty feet of concrete at the court-yard entrance.
- **Sanctuary Roof Overhang Repair**: Creed & Garner has already delivered shinglenear the sanctuary entrance The right side of the roof overhang will be completely reshingled and flashing will be installed along the borders of the bell tower. Installation will be completed during the week of March 20th.
- **Bell Tower Plexiglass Replacement:** Installation of "insulated plate glass" in the bell tower will be completed during the week of March 20th. The replacement of the "cloudy and inefficient" plexiglass will be a welcome sight to all.



Cemetery Team

We have sold 1 Plot at the Cemetery and we have one customer making payments on a Columbarium Niche. We also had two interments at the Cemetery. We are, at the present time, at least 5 interments behind.

We have some minor repairs of the Columbarium at the Cemetery from termite damage.

We were investigating the cost of adding a Columbarium on to the backside of the existing Columbarium, but the cost was beyond our resources.

We are now looking at putting 4 new Columbarium's in front of the existing one, that would hold many more guest than the present one. Each Columbarium is two sided with 24 Niches on each side. 48 Niches times 4 equals 192 Niches total. We are currently down to 100 Niches.

We had a Cemetery Team Meeting, Sunday the 3/5/2023, after Service and decided to have Custom Monuments Co. sell and install (4) four columbarium's in our Cemetery, (provided that we receive a properly written bid with a payment schedule from them). They had the lowest of the three (3) bids.

When I presented the Team's recommendation to the Board on 5/19/2023, for approval. It was approved for \$49,900.00.

We are also looking at making Section A of the Cemetery, with the Wall Of Honor in it, a special section for military only, as a way of honoring our veterans.

Mike Barry Cemetery Team Chair



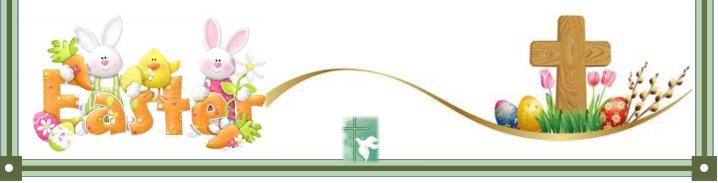


**Please notify Church Administrator for events to be added to the Chapel in the Pines calendar to assure availability of dates and times.



Annual Spring Rummage Sale Saturday, April 22, 2023

Non Clothing Item Donations are now being accepted by Mission Team Members on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am—Noon in the **Kids Zone until April 12, 2023**



<u>April</u>

Usher Schedule Apríl — May 2023

Offertory – after you hand the plates back to Paul and he turns to the alter, just turn and go to your seat. If you need a sub, the usher list is below.

2 Sun 9 am (Palm) Peggy & Bart Reuter, Jim Beck, Wendy Tetreault Thu 5:30 6 (Maundy) Lee Connelly, Gisela Danielson, Dot Macdonald, Leslie While Fri 12:00 (Good) Joyce Singletary, Wendy Tetreault, Carol 7 Faas 9 Sun 9 am (Easter) Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman, Peggy & Bart Reuter Jim Beck, Thalia Beam, Sue & Dick VanHorne 16 Sun 9 am

- 23 Sun 9 am Cathy & George Norman, Joyce Singletary, Lee 24 Connelly
- 30 Sun 9 am RJ & Tim Peppe, Sue & Dick VanHorne

<u>May</u>

1.10			
7	Sun	9 am	Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill, Leslie While, Gisela
			Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman, Wendy Tetreault, Carole Faas (Ascension & Gathering) Gordon Zeller, Kathy Goodman, Lee Conn Thalia Beam
			RJ & Tim Peppe, Marilyn & Jimmy McCaskill Cathy & George Norman, Joyce Singletary, Dot Macdonald

(tbd - to be determined)

Coffee Fellowship



<u>April</u>

- 2 May Snead and Neta Massey
- 9 NO COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
- 16 Katy Swain and Cathy Nor-
- man
- 23 Volunteer Needed
- 30 Tracey Olsen and Frank Carney
- <u>May</u>
- 7 Denis and Sandy Cifranic
- 14 Volunteer Needed
- 21 Volunteer Needed

Join us Sunday mornings after the service for coffee/light refreshments and good fellowship with friends.

Reminder: If you or a friend would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact our Church Administrator, Susan Williams at 910-400 -5188 or citp10@7lakeschapel.com and let her know which Sunday works for you. You can also sign up at the podium just outside the entrance to the fellowship hall.





Flower Schedule

If you are interested in volunteering to provide flowers for the chapel, please contact the office at 910-400-5188 or e-mail Susan Williams at citp10@7lakeschapel.com to have your name added to the Flower Sign-up List.

April	
4-2	Paul James
4-9	Jon & Dorene Tichenor
4-16	Flowers from Ernie Martin Memorial
4-23	Volunteer Needed
4-30	Dick & Sue VanHorne
May	
5-7	Jerry Moss
5-14	Volunteer Needed
5-21	Volunteer Needed
5-28	Volunteer Needed

Back Pack Pals and Matthew 25:40 Programs

We Need Your Help— Please Donate as Often As You Can!

Backpack Pals





Mathew 25:40

Capri Sun Juices, any flavor Pop Tarts, any flavor Chef Boyardee Micro Cups, in yellow and red Small Water Bottles Protein Bars, all flavors Fruit Cups Apple Sauce Cups





Board Members

Board of Directors - 2023

George Norman, President	gngolfer@nc.rr.com	910-987-4664
Jon Tichenor 1st Vice President	tichenorjon@gmail.com	910-466-9148
Jim Beck Treasurer	lotsaoaks@gmail.com	910-673-5682
Ed Burke Secretary	edembr@hotmail.com	910-477-2947
Joyce Singletary	jsingletary31@nc.rr.com	910-673-5554
Dot Macdonald	dotjmac1957@gmail.com	910-673-3866
Bob Donaldson	rhdon138@gmail.com	910-466-9064

Chapel Staff and Contact Info

Rebekah Lee Ritter Interim Choir Director	Phyllis Alexander Interim Organist/Pianist	Dillon Corral Sound/Video Tech
Paula Montgomery Financial Secretary	citp-treasurer@7lakeschapel.com	910-986-9191
Chapel Administrator Susan Williams	citp10@7lakeschapel.com	910-400-5188
Pastor Reverend Paul James	pastorpaulchapel@gmail.com	910-690-5529

Church Office: 910-400-5188 Church Email: <u>citp10@7lakeschapel.com</u> Church Website: http://7lakeschapel.com

Chapel Chimes April 2023

