

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Savior's Ordeal for Us

During his earthly life, [Jesus] offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. After he was perfected, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. (Hebrews 5:7-9 CSB)

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was under deep emotional distress. He told his apostles he was full of great sorrow, *deeply grieved to the point of death*. He even asked his Father to let the cup of his wrath pass from him. But—*Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.* (See Mk 14:33-36.) From the cross Jesus screamed with the psalmist, *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?* (Ps 22:1).

Jesus knows our weaknesses and fears. He experienced them in his own pure and undefiled body and soul. The Good Shepherd himself walked through the valley of deep darkness. We must remember this during times of tragedy and sorrow, of confusion and grief. When he was troubled, Jesus prayed. He appealed to his Father and ours. He cried out and he wept. Real tears streamed down his face (Jn 11). Our only hope is the man of sorrows, the one acquainted with grief. He will never leave us. He will never forsake us. Nothing can separate his people from his love.

Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered. The sinless Son of God learned. He learned *through* suffering. That is astonishing and astounding. It is hard to put into words.

This is a part of Jesus' humiliation. The *WSC, Question 26*, says, *How was Christ humiliated?* "Christ was humiliated: by being born as a man and born into a poor family; by being made subject to the law and suffering the miseries of this life, the anger of God, and the curse of death on the cross; and by being buried and remaining under the power of death for a time."

Jesus lived with his parents and then all his younger siblings. They did not understand him (not until after his resurrection). At age twelve he confounded the religious teachers with his questions and his understanding. He said to his parents, "Don't you understand? I must be about my Father's business." He was submissive to his parents

and *Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.* (See Lk 2:41-52.) Jesus grew physically and intellectually. Did he even grow spiritually? It seems he did.

Isaiah had told us about this long ago. *The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me each morning; he awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn back. I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard. I did not hide my face from scorn and spitting. The Lord God will help me; therefore I have not been humiliated; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.* (Isaiah 50:4-7)

And so Jesus was declared to be the Savior sinners like us need. David Peterson explains, "Son of God though he was, he experienced the temptation to swerve from doing the will of his Father because of the suffering involved. He needed to learn what *obedience* to God involved in practical terms, in the condition of human life on earth, so that he could sympathize with those similarly tested and teach us by his own example how far God ought to be submitted to and obeyed" (*New Bible Commentary*, 1994, p. 1333). He was qualified to be the perfect sacrifice for sinners. His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven confirmed his perfect accomplishment. His sending of the Holy Spirit sealed the deal.

Jesus was once asked, what does it mean to be doing the works of God. *Jesus replied, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent"* (John 6:29). Do you believe on Jesus? He is entirely fit to be the great High Priest you and I need. *Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them* (Heb. 7:25).

Pastor Josh

John 6:28-29

28 "What can we do to perform the works of God?" they asked.

29 Jesus replied, "This is the work of God — that you believe in the one he has sent."

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Ali Basinger	3 Dessert Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm Missions Committee Meeting: 7pm	4 National Day of Prayer 12-Hour Prayer Vigil: 8am-8pm	5 B-day: Anna Caroline Coburn B-day: Emma Lessmann McCaskill	6
7 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Showers of Blessing Special Offering	8 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	9 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	10 Dessert Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm Session Meeting: 7pm B-day: Bill Weltin B-day: Ruthie Mackin	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day Deacon Meeting Communion Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Showers of Blessing Special Offering	15 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	16 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Josh Carmichael	17	18	19 B-day: Angie Solliday B-day: Sterrett Lessmann B-day: Owen Lessmann	20
21 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Showers of Blessing Special Offering Fellowship Potluck B-day: Lily Mackin	22 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	23 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Andy Coburn	24 B-day: Eloise Harris	25 B-day: Ryan Basinger	26 B-day: Melissa Weltin	27
28 Pentecost Sunday Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Showers of Blessing Special Offering HOP: 2pm	29 Memorial Day Holiday B-day: Betsy Carmichael	30 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Lillian Cannon	31			

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Melissa Weltin

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study (morning group only), 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The study will feature the book, “Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus,” by Nancy Guthrie. If you are able, please join us. The evening group will start back June 6th.
- Wednesday, Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm. Please note that the last meeting will be May 10th; summer break will begin on May 17th. Wednesday activities will resume in the fall.

<u>2023</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,243.02	\$ 27,754.88
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,889.58	\$ 35,482.26
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 353.44	\$ (7,727.38)
<u>2022</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 26,007.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,342.96	\$ 25,925.34
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,257.04	\$ 81.66

MARCH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 41

DEACONS: Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans

MAY EVENTS

May 1: The Showers of Blessings offering will be held each week through the month of May. This year’s offering will go to UnBound216 Prison Ministry (formerly known as JumpStart Alabama).

May 3: Missions Committee Meeting, 7:00pm.

May 4: National Day of Prayer / 12-Hour Prayer Vigil, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

May 10: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

May 14:

- Mother’s Day.
- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

May 21: Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Coddington and Evans families.

May 28: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) will meet at 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. Please see page 4 for more details on this activity. For more information, please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin.



2023 Theme: PRAY FERVENTLY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND AVAIL MUCH.

12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

To participate in the National Day of Prayer, our congregation will hold our annual 12-Hour Prayer Vigil on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Our goal is to have our congregation pray continuously for 12 hours.

We hope you will join our congregation in faithful prayer.

JAMES 5:16B "THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

We want to recognize our 2023 graduates and pray for God’s rich blessings on the next chapter on their lives.

Logan Griffith, a graduate from Demopolis High School, plans to major in mechanical engineering and wants to attend the University of Alabama Huntsville or University of Alabama.

Lucy Lessmann, a graduate from the Honors Program at Mississippi Delta Community College, plans to attend Delta State University in Cleveland, MS, in the fall.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MAY 2023

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Hocker, Jeannie
Acton, Beth	Hogle, Judy
Allinder, Kate	Huizenga, Fran
Bazuin, Caiden	Hux, Karen
Beale, Amy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beard, Ronnie	Lane, Barbara
Beeler, Peggy	Lawson, Connie
Belcher, Samuel	Ligon, Brandon
Brantley, Maggie	Mackin, Jimmy
Bridges, Ida Lee	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	Margo, Chrissy
Brooker, Jan	McIntier, Jodie
Brown, Walt	Morgan, Laura
Busby, Rhae	Morris, Seth
Bynum, Linda	Mutisya, Cecilia
Cooper, Dr. Clarence	Parr, Higley
Craig, Noah	Phillips, Ronnie
Curry, Walter	Renner, Elizabeth
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sharp, Chris
Duncan, Conner	Sims, Anna Katherine
Dyer, Doug	Thornton, Alaina
Espy, Emily	Tipton, Carolyn
Farst, Sharon	Tulipan, Amelia
Finley, Betty	Tulipan, Hansen
Gardner, Greg	Turner, Becky
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Twist, Ty
Hall, Jimmy	VanderMolen, Popko
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Womble, Caleb
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Zimmerman, Steve
Headley, David	

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Jimmy Mackin
Rick Wilson
Jimmy Hall

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning

Special Needs:

The Hutton Family
Sharon Farst

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigayle Kircharr
Harry Jeong

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Joseph Wilson
Josh Tyson
Blake Ivy
Austin Griffith
Kaleb Brown
Nathan McCaskill



If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.