

new life news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST MARCH 2018

Easter Sunday is April 1st this year. April Fool's day. A good joke isn't it. The day that we celebrate a dead man's return to life is a day for fools. Of course, there are many around who think we **are fools** for believing in Jesus. Recently on the popular TV show "The View" co-host, Joy Behar, suggested that Vice-President Mike Pence's Christian beliefs make him mentally ill. Specifically the thing that prompted her remarks was his belief that Jesus his Lord and Savior, talks to him. We are not (or at least should not be) surprised by this. Jesus himself told us that we would be hated for our faith in him.

Here, though, is the heart of the matter. **Jesus came back from the dead!** For over 2000 years people have been trying to explain away this one truth. All their attempts have failed. Some have said he didn't really die (the soldiers who dealt in death were wrong in this view). But how does a man beaten, crucified, stabbed in the side with a sword and (presumably) clinging to life persuade people that he is the all powerful God? It doesn't add up. Others have claimed that Jesus didn't come back to life, instead the disciples faked the whole thing. But how did a group of uneducated fisherman fool the Romans and the Jews? Why didn't the leaders of the day just produce the body? And why would the disciples all die horrible violent deaths for something they knew to be a lie? It doesn't add up. Still others have said the whole thing was a case of group hysteria. I am not an expert on group hysteria, but I do know that the resurrected Jesus appeared multiple times in multiple places and to multiple people. Not once to only his closest friends who were hysterical with grief. It just doesn't add up!

So what are we to do with this truth? We believe it and then we follow Jesus! And if the world sees us as fools, then we will wear that label, while we pray for their souls.

- March 3rd - Upward Games
- March 4, 11, 18, & 25
Sunshine Singers Practice @
4:00pm
- March 4, 11, 18, & 25
Marriage Class @ 6:00pm
- March 7th
Comfort & Joy Sewing @
9:00am
- March 17th
Come & Be Ladies Day @
8:30am
- March 21st
Comfort & Joy Sewing @
5:30pm
- March 30
Good Friday Service @ 6:00pm

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1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (NIV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”**

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.¹

~Steve

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” -Luke 24:5b

This is the question that the angels at Jesus' tomb asked the women when they arrived to anoint His body for burial. The angels took it matter of factly that the women should have known that Jesus was alive. Why? Because He had been telling His followers that it was necessary for Him to die but then to be subsequently raised from the dead (Jn 2:18-22; Mt 12:39-40; Mt 16:21). The question seems to be a genuine one. The angels are really wondering why these women are looking for God the Son in a hole cut into the earth. These angels knew Jesus well. They lived with Him in glory. They knew that when He spoke things came into being. They knew that death could never hold Him. So it may have been a surprise to them that these women had contact with this very same Lord and heard Him speak and still expected to find Him in the grave.

We can't be too hard on the women, though. If I were there and if the question had been posed to me I would have said something like, "Because He died and this is where dead people go. I saw Him removed from a cross and I saw them place Him in the tomb." It may be that Jesus said He would be raised from the dead, but natural laws are awfully hard to overcome. It would be easy to spiritualize His statement and assume He meant something other than a literal resurrection. This seems to be the case since we know that the disciples were working on the question as to what "rising from the dead" meant (Mark 9:10). It's easy to forget Jesus' words when everything seems to be going wrong. It's also easy to think He means something different than what He says because it all sounds too good to be true. But that's the thing about Jesus Christ that makes Him so amazing: He is perfectly clear in what He says and perfectly capable of bringing it about.

Jesus' resurrection brings the promise of life to us. It is easy to forget His words when the world seems to be unravelling in front of our eyes. But His words are still true and clear: "I will not leave you as orphans." "I will come and make my home with you." "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." "If you confess me I will confess you before my Father in Heaven."

"I am going to prepare a place for you." "Yes, I am coming soon."

Jesus means what He says and He wants us to remember what He says. He wants us to learn to take it as a matter of fact that He is living and to be looking for Him in every circumstance. Wherever we may think He is, He is never buried away somewhere, outside of our reach and separated from our situation. HE IS RISEN!

Happy Easter!

~ Kyle

Last year, we tried a project with kids here at New Life. We made resurrection gardens. It was a really cool idea. It involved stones, dirt, grass seed, sticks and potting dishes. They looked really cool, but the grass never grew. They just sat there for months with no change and were eventually tossed. The problem was, they were neglected of essentials for growth, sun and not watered near enough.

In a lot of ways, this can easily happen to us as Christians. What happened on the cross, gave us an amazing opportunity to life, and more importantly, a life with Christ. But, this relationship has to grow. 2 Peter tells us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have to continue in his word, let our struggles and trials teach us to trust him more, and pray constantly. Nothing reminds us more of the necessity of these truths in our lives more than Easter. I pray this Easter, that the flame inside you will grow for Christ.

~Jason

March Birthdays

1 – Brennan South

2- Olivia Dudgeon, Bryce Fletcher

3 – Ashley Twedt

5 – Cody Mann, Kyle Thompson, Ava Williams

6 – Laurie Fox

7 – Marjorie Snelson

9 – Obed Snelson

10 – Bonnie Fry

12 – Wanda Bender

14 – Deb Cromer

15 – Brittany Dudgeon, Ron Landis

16 – Emily Broughton

19 – Jonah Beveridge, Marsha Frontz,
Lucas Starling

20 – Myles Sharp

21 – Abigail Hickerson

22 – Betty Lou Woodward

24 – Ryan Mowry

25 – Emily Hart

26 – Cayden Sharp

27 – Michelle Sharp

28 – Jessica Dawson

29 – Clint Shaffer, Donna Shank

30 – Andrew Kistler

31 – Luke Roseberry

No Foolin'

Easter Weekend is only a month away and the seventy degree weather in February reminds us that Spring is around the corner. This year, Easter falls on April Fools Day, but the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is no joke. I wonder if the religious leaders of Jesus' day felt as if they had been pranked that Sunday following the crucifixion? They did everything they could to make sure Jesus stayed in the grave. They even placed guards at the entrance of the tomb so that the body could not be taken and used in an elaborate religious scam by the disciples. The leaders were determined to stamp out Jesus' claim of resurrection, but the empty tomb and His living body are clearly evidence of our Savior's death and risen life.

Our sermon series in March is entitled, "**Who is Jesus?**" We are focusing on Jesus' deity and humanity (fully God and fully man), His incarnation (coming in flesh), and His substitutionary atonement (taking our place on the cross). These messages will teach us about who Jesus is and His mission to humanity.

Easter Weekend | Death to Life

...begins with our **Good Friday service on March 30th @ 6:00p**. This time of gathered worship will continue to answer the question of who Jesus is while emphasizing the importance of the crucifixion. We will sing praise to the Lamb who was slain, give thanks for the ransom paid to redeem us, humbly watch as Christ takes the wrath of God on Himself, and rejoice in Jesus as our mediator with the Father. As a means of experiencing the significance of Christ's death and our death to sin, you are invited to wear black for the Good Friday service.

Sorrow and brokenness turn to celebration on Resurrection morning. **Sunday, April 1st @ 9:00a will be our fellowship breakfast**. Following our meal we will have **one combined worship gathering at 10:30a in the New Life Center** as we remember Christ's death and resurrection while also recognizing our journey of putting sin to death and moving toward life eternal. We want to encourage everyone to wear bright colors on resurrection morning as we proclaim that...

JESUS IS ALIVE!

~Ryan

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS FOR APRIL

- **Sunday April 1**
Resurrection Sunday
- **Wednesday April 4**
Comfort & Joy Sewing @ 9:00am
- **Wednesday April 11**
Senior Moments Event @ 11:00am
- **Wednesday April 18th**
Comfort & Joy Sewing @ 5:30pm