

# March 2018

# Pittsburg CoB

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Pastor: Ken Oren

James 2:14-17NRSV

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

From the Pastor

February 11th we started a new sermon series on the book of James. We are slowly moving through the book, a topic at a time, and digging deep in the fertile ground. We will probably get to the above passage around Easter.

This passage is controversial because people don't understand it. Ephesians 2:8-9NRSV tells us:

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Therefore our works do not save us.

So why does James emphasize works?

The recent example of the armed guard who avoided the armed shooter in Florida comes to mind. We can talk all day about the value of our faith, but if we do not use it in the time of need - does it mean anything?

Can we, or do we believe?

James is saying that if our faith is real, we will be using it to improve and affect the faith lives of others.

So I invite you, write a love letter (enclosed article), bake some cookies, make a call, say a prayer. Show to the world that you are willing to enter the fray - and make a difference to others.

Pastor Ken



Sunday 9:00 am - Sunday School  
Sunday 10:00 am - Praise and Worship

## --- CALENDAR OF EVENTS ---

- Feb 28 Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David  
2 Samuel Chapter 2
- Mar 4 Sunday 6:00 pm  
Concert of the Month  
**Redeemed Trio**
- Mar 7 Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David
- Mar 11 Sunday 2:00 am  
Time change - Spring forward.
- Mar 11 Sunday 4:00 pm  
Dartball celebration dinner at Painter Creek
- Mar 14 **No Wednesday  
Fellowship/Bible Study**
- Mar 21 Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Fellowship/Bible Study - Life of David
- Mar 28 **No Wednesday  
Fellowship/Bible Study**
- Mar 29 Thursday 6:00 pm  
Joint Love Feast and Communion  
At Painter Creek
- Apr 1 **Easter Sunday**  
7:00 am Sunrise Service  
Followed by carry-in breakfast  
Then egg hunt  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Easter Service
- Apr 1 **No Concert of the month due to Easter**

**MARCH  
BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 Madison Niswonger
- 8 Larry & Jerryln Hart
- 10 Sharon Fetter
- 11 Jim Fetter
- 11 Coletia Williams
- 15 Ryan Marker
- 19 Ron Goubeaux
- 21 Sue Strawser
- 22 Diane Jay
- 28 Andy Strawser
- 30 John K. Strawser
- 30 Kaylie Strawser

Note:  
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

**Castine Area Food Bank**  
Food item for March is  
Spaghetti Sauce



**Concert of the month  
for March**

**Redeemed Trio**  
**Sunday, March 4 at 6:00 pm**  
**Bring a friend!**



The trio consists of:

**Pastor Gary Bayes (baritone)** started *Redeemed Trio* 13 years ago. Pastor Gary retired in 1999 for the secular world to become a staff pastor at Montgomery Assembly of God church. After 3 years there he became the Administrative Pastor at Christian Life Center Church in West Chester, Ohio for 6 years. He also sang with The Townesmen Quartet along with Barney McFadden. It has been his life long dream to minister in Southern Gospel Music and *Redeemed Trio* has been a big part of this dream come true.

**Barney McFadden (lead)** has ministered in Southern Gospel Music since he was a teenager. He was raised in southern Indiana and began singing by filling in when a member of The Churchmen quartet became ill. After singing with them for several years, he formed his own trio, The Majestics. Barney's full time occupation was a tool and die maker but was able to sing and travel on weekends and back to work on Monday morning. Moving to Ohio because of his job, he formed The Victors Quartet. He also sang with The Townesmen Quartet and The McFadden's with his wife and son.

**Dale Boreing (tenor)** has enjoyed singing and playing in church, where his love for Southern Gospel Music and dream to travel in a group began. After marrying his high school sweetheart, he remained involved, and a huge SG fan, for many years while raising his family. It wasn't until 2009 that his dream came true when Dale was offered the tenor position for the *Sonmen Quartet*. In 2012 he joined the *Mission Quartet* where he was blessed to travel nationally for 2 years.

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the concert.



Have you ever been confronted with a message that changed your perspective? One church chose as its Lenten theme, "Forty Days of Love."

Each week members of the congregation were encouraged to show their love and appreciation in different ways. The first week they were encouraged to send notes to people who had made positive contributions to their lives.

After the first service a man in the congregation wanted to speak to his pastor. The pastor describes the man as "kind of macho, a former football player who loved to hunt and fish, a strong self-made man." The man told his pastor, "I love you and I love this church, but I'm not going to participate in this Forty Days of Love stuff. It's OK for some folks," he said, "but it's a little too sentimental and syrupy for me."

A week went by. The next Sunday this man waited after church to see his pastor again. "I want to apologize for what I said last Sunday," he told him, "about the Forty Days of Love. I realized on Wednesday that I was wrong." "Wednesday?" his pastor repeated. "What happened on Wednesday?" "I got one of those letters!" the man said. The letter came as a total surprise. It was from a person the man never expected to hear from. It touched him so deeply he now carries it around in his pocket all the time. "Every time I read it," he said, "I get tears in my eyes." It was a transforming moment in this man's life. Suddenly he realized he was loved by others in the church. This changed his entire outlook. "I was so moved by that letter," he said, "I sat down and wrote ten letters myself."

Receiving that letter was a transforming experience for Mr. Macho. It came from a mailbox rather than a mountaintop, but the effect was the same - his perspective was changed. God breaks into our lives and we are changed. *King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com*



Martin Luther King's last sermon. He delivered it April 3, 1968, on the eve of his assassination, at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, the headquarters of the Church of God in Christ, the largest African American Pentecostal denomination in the United States.

He concluded his remarks that night:

"I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." *David E. Leininger, WOW!!! www.Sermons.com*



There is a story about two young brothers who were caught stealing sheep. The punishment back then was to brand the thief's forehead with the letters ST which stood for sheep thief. As a result of this, one brother left the village and spent his remaining years wandering from place to place indelibly marked by disgrace. The other remained in the village, made restitution for the stolen sheep, and became a caring friend and neighbor to the townspeople. He lived out his life in the village, an old man loved by all. One day a stranger came to town and inquired about the ST on the old man's forehead. "I'm not sure what it means," another told him. "It happened so long ago, but I think the letters must stand for saint." We have a choice. We can lay down the cross we have been given to bear and passively live life with no challenge to change or we can take it up and be transformed, living for something greater than ourselves: The Kingdom of God. The choice is yours.

*www.Sermons.com.*

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