



*By Pastor John*

Faith, often described as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1), is a source of strength and resilience during hard times. In the face of adversity, turning to the wisdom of the Bible can provide guidance and inspiration for nurturing and sustaining faith.

***Here are four ways to find faith in hard times, drawing from the teachings of the Bible:***

***Seeking Refuge in God's Word:*** In times of hardship, the Bible serves as a beacon of hope and comfort. Psalm 119:105 declares, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we gain wisdom, perspective, and assurance of God's presence amidst our struggles.

***Prayer and Communion with God:*** Prayer is a powerful tool for nurturing faith in difficult times. Philippians 4:6-7 exhorts us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

***Finding Strength in Community:*** Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." During difficult times, the support and encouragement of fellow believers are invaluable.

***Reflecting on God's Promises:*** In moments of doubt and despair, reflecting on God's promises can renew our faith and trust in His unfailing goodness. Isaiah 41:10 assures us, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

***Summary:*** The Bible offers timeless wisdom and guidance for nurturing faith in hard times. Through seeking refuge in God's Word, prayer and communion with Him, finding strength in community, and reflecting on His promises, we can cultivate a faith that endures, even amidst adversity. As we anchor our hearts in the truths of Scripture, we discover the peace, hope, and assurance that God is faithful and His love never fails.

**Monday Manna**  
*Begin your week by feeding your soul.*

In April we begin a fantastic study of the Lord's Prayer. We have a few openings and we'd love for you to join us! We meet at 11am.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
Julie Chamberlain at (727) 386-5059  
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## **Embracing Renewal: Springtime Reflections** **By Pastor David**

As the earth awakens from its wintry slumber, we are once again greeted by the gentle embrace of spring. In the Christian tradition, spring holds profound significance, symbolizing themes of renewal, resurrection, and the promise of new life. As flowers bloom and nature comes alive with vibrant colors, let us take a moment to reflect on the spiritual lessons that spring offers us.

### **Resurrection and Renewal**

Springtime reminds us of the ultimate message of hope found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as the earth emerges from the grip of winter into the warmth of spring, so too did Christ emerge from the darkness of the tomb into the light of new life. Spring serves as a tangible reminder of the promise of renewal that is extended to all who believe in Him. It is a season of spiritual rebirth, inviting us to shed the old and embrace the new.

### **Beauty in Impermanence**

In the fleeting beauty of spring blossoms, we are reminded of the transient nature of life on earth. The vibrant colors and delicate petals serve as a reminder that life is precious but fleeting. Yet, amidst this impermanence, there is beauty to be found. Just as the flowers bloom for a season, so too are we called to make the most of each moment, cherishing the blessings that surround us and living with gratitude in our hearts.

### **Cultivating Growth**

Spring is a time of growth and transformation. As the earth begins to thaw, seeds that lay dormant during the winter months burst forth with new life. In the same way, spring invites us to cultivate spiritual growth in our own lives. It is a season of opportunity, a time to plant seeds of faith, hope, and love that will blossom and bear fruit in the seasons to come. Let us use this time to nurture our relationship with God, allowing His spirit to work within us and bring about positive change.

### **Embracing the Light**

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, spring illuminates the world with its warmth and light. In the same way, the light of Christ shines brightly in our lives, dispelling the darkness of sin and despair. Let us bask in the light of His love, allowing it to illuminate our hearts and minds. As we emerge from the darkness of winter, may we be reminded of the eternal light that guides us and gives us hope.

As we rejoice in the beauty of spring, let us not forget the deeper spiritual truths that it reveals to us. May this season be a time of renewal and transformation, as we embrace the promise of new life found in Christ.

**With love and grace,**

*Pastor David*

### World Missions

April 14, will be missionary Sunday focusing on Africa with a guest speaker during Sunday School and the church service.

Tonya Hawthorne is in Kenya. They are also opening a new clinic in Zambia. There has been much accomplished in their work. They have flush toilets, projector and screen to begin to play videos in their own languages. They have been approved for NHIF (National Health Assurance) allows members to choose us as primary medical facility. It took 7 years work for this process.

Emanuel Guidi is also in Africa. Boys who have had parents killed by terrorists and taken to be warriors, he captures and disciples them.

Joan Batchler

### Clothes to Kids

Friends at North Bay, Y'all are incredible!!! Thank you so much for "Socking it to us" with 1,136 pairs of new socks for children in need. We truly could not do what we do without your generous love and support to our mission. Thank you for helping us Clothe a Kid, Change a Life. We love u! Love, the CTK Fam

### Fellowship

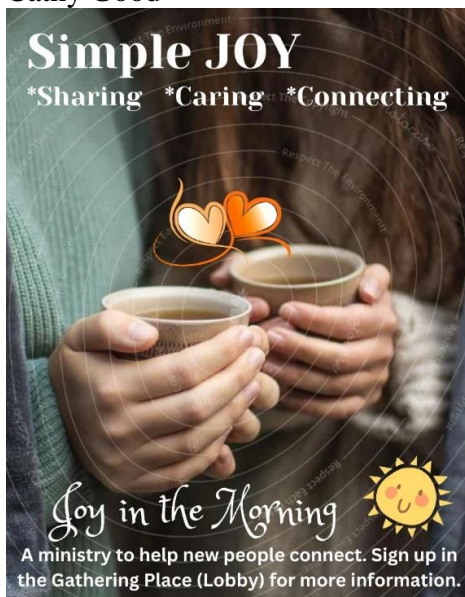
The "Anything Goes" talent show is coming up on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. The deadline for registering the talent/variety show and the arts and crafts display is only a week away on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>!!!! Please turn in your sign-up sheets to Cathy Good for music and variety and Diane Brand or Jean LeFebvre for the arts and crafts display. Even if you have told someone you plan to be in the show you still need to fill out a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place!!

Everyone who plans to attend the show also needs to sign up in the Gathering Place because food and beverages will be served after the performance, and the Fellowship committee needs to know how much food to prepare.

A love offering will be collected at intermission during the show for FEAST.

Attention: There will be a dress rehearsal in the sanctuary the week before the talent show on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for those musicians, singers and performers who are participating in the show. The artists and crafters will be asked to bring in their work the day before on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to set up their displays in the gathering place. Diane brand will assist with your work. Please invite family and friends to this special event!!! Thank you.

Cathy Good



### Easter Dinner Party



### Sunday Music

Don't forget to mark down your favorite songs or hymns on the sign-up sheet for pre-service piano music. Thank you!!

Cathy Good

Pastoral Staff: Dr. John D. Wentworth-Lead Pastor Rev. David E. Rutter-Executive Pastor  
Music Staff: Kendall and Scott Kline-Music Directors, Desiree Little-Organist, Cathy Good-Pianist  
Administrative Staff: Desiree Little-Office Administrator  
Church Facilities Staff: Barry Austin-Church Facilities Superintendent

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