

LIFE Fellowship of Frederick

Passion Week Commemoration Schedule: April 15th-21st, 2019

This year we would like to take some time as a church body to be intentional in our remembrance of the love of Jesus Christ during this special season. This packet includes suggested activities for you and your family to help contextualize some of the highlights of Jesus' ministry during His last days on Earth. The primary Biblical narrative can be found in all four Gospels beginning in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12.

MONDAY: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

(Matthew 22:34-40 / Mark 12:28-34)

The New Testament consistently reveals the correlation between love for God and the love for people. This Easter season we will be celebrating the most significant events in human history: the Sacrificial Death of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection. Yet there are many in our world – in our own COMMUNITY – who don't understand the present and eternal significance of these events. We have a tremendous opportunity to love God by inviting those for whom He died to experience His love.

- **How to Participate:** On this first day of the "Passion Week" we encourage you to go to your "neighbors": those you live, work, and play with. Take them an invitation to the week's events along with a tangible demonstration of your concern for them. This could be anything from a handwritten note, to a small gift, to a plate of cookies. Finding a way to *serve* them would be even better. Be creative!
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TUESDAY: "MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER"

(Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17, Luke 19:45-46)

One of Jesus' first acts after the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem was to establish His authority over the Temple. He began by driving out those who were making a marketplace out of the house of God. Jesus then declares that this house – HIS house – will be a house of prayer. We know that God can hear the prayer of anyone at anytime. However, there is something powerful that happens when people gather together for the purpose of communion with God.

- **How to Participate:** The church will be open at 6:30 PM in advance of our Tuesday evening Bible Studies. During this time all are welcome to gather in the Sanctuary and pray together as one. We will pray for:
 - the salvation of those who are in need of their Savior.
 - the effectiveness of our church ministries this week.
 - our missionaries around the world who are engaged in similar objectives in their respective places of ministry.

WEDNESDAY: JESUS PRAYS FOR US (*John 17*)

The Apostle John records for us a unique account of Jesus' final days. As His attention clearly turns to the Cross, we find the Jesus' focus remains steadfast on the purpose for which He came: the redemption of mankind. John records Jesus' prayer for Himself (17:1-5), His disciples (17:6-19), and US (17:20-26). Take time today to read John 17 today. Jesus' prayer for us before the Cross provide great context to His purpose for us: *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV2011)**

THURSDAY: COSTLY SACRIFICE (*Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3, John 12:2-8*)

In the days leading up to the death of Jesus an event happened that was significant enough to be recorded by three of the Gospel authors. During a dinner in Bethany a woman came with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume. She then proceeded to break the jar and pour the perfume on Jesus. Some of those present at the event were indignant at the perceived waste of money and opportunity. They estimated that, instead of wasting the perfume on Jesus, the perfume could have been sold for a year's wages and given to the poor. Jesus acknowledged that this indeed could have been the case, but the woman chose the more excellent way by honoring Jesus while He was still present. **Mark 14:6-7 (NIV2011)** ⁶ *"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.*

- **How to Participate:** Be intentional about making a costly sacrifice to one who is in need. Jesus is not present in bodily form, but He does say that we will always have the poor with us. Make this sacrifice for an individual as though it was for Jesus Himself.

Matthew 25:40 (NIV2011) ⁴⁰ ... *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

- o Here are some opportunities to give sacrificially as unto the Lord:
 - Purchase a practical item that you would want for yourself and give it away:
 - Personally deliver it to a place where need is greatest: Contact the "Our Center" or the "Inn Between" in Longmont for specific recommendations.
 - Personally deliver your gift to someone in your circle of connections you know is in need.
 - Make a contribution online to one of our church's funds:
 - *Benevolence Fund:* All funds contributed during "Passion Week" will be directed to those in our church and immediate community that we know could use a blessing from the Lord through you.
 - *Missions Fund:* All funds contributed during "Passion Week" will be directed through missionaries to places of exceptional need abroad.

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FRIDAY: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 6:30 PM

Our church will gather to commemorate the greatest example of sacrificial love in human history. All are welcome to remember God's love for us as revealed in song and Scripture. At the close of our service we will honor the Lord's command to "remember Him" through Communion.

SATURDAY: JESUS HIDDEN IN THE TOMB, BUT ***NOT*** HIDDEN IN YOU!

In the chronology of the Passion Week, THIS is the darkest day. This would be the full day that Jesus' body was confined to the grave. The Light of the World had seemingly been extinguished. The disciples probably huddled together in fear, anger, and confusion. They had no idea what tomorrow would bring!

In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus told His disciples *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* As we remember the crucified Christ in the tomb today, we want to celebrate the power of the resurrected Christ at work in us today. When people see our good works, they should be seeing the power of Jesus at work in each one of us.

- **How to Participate:** Many will meet tonight as part of their 2:42 Groups. Whether you are meeting in a large group or as a single family, perhaps devote some part of your dinner time to encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:25).
 - o *Best Option:* Thoughtfully and intentionally communicate how you have seen the power of Jesus at work within some / all the people of your group.
 - o *Perfectly Acceptable Option:* If those in your group don't know each other well, share a time where a follower of Jesus has been used by God to bless your life.
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RESURRECTION SUNDAY: April 21st, 2019. Services at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

This is what it is all about folks! Come prepared to worship our LIVING HOPE!

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (NIV2011)

¹⁷ *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.* ¹⁸ *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.* ¹⁹ *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.* ²⁰ ***But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.***