

September
2020



See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it... ~ James 5:7b ESV

The Messenger



Hello, beloved Saints of God!
I hope this edition of *The Messenger* finds you well and in good care.

I've been reading a book that was given to me back in 1977. Talk about some procrastination! It was one of those books that I told myself I would read later. Well, for me, the time has come. It's called *Fully Human, Fully Alive: A New Life through a New Vision* by John Powell, S.J.

Powell lists six insights that "profoundly changed" his life. He states that these insights deeply affected his lifestyle and the perceptions of things he sees and how he responds to the world.

Let me share with you the first of the six:

- Obnoxious qualities (lying, bragging, gossiping, temper tantrums, etc.) in myself and in others are really cries of pain and appeals for help.

This certainly spoke to me and I was only on page 3! LOL. Who knows how long it will take before I get through it?!

How can I begin to think that any of these things are okay? Unless I look at these behaviors from the perspective of someone (including me) in need of help with some deep pain, I am simply making judgement.

How can I begin to judge those moments in others or myself without thinking there must be some sense "of pain or appeal for help"? How do I begin to help myself or others I encounter? I need to begin to look into the depths of humanness and see that something deeper is going on.

There is a sense of lack in a person's life that is desperately seeking some wholeness – some cry to be fully alive. I know that when I am living out such behaviors I may be going through something that is bigger than the moment. I must take some time to reflect, meditate, and seek help from a God who has always desired me to be fully human and yet to be fully alive.

Here is the challenge. When I react in a certain way that brings harm, then I am not living in a fully human and fully alive way. My perceptions tell me that I am lacking insight to a situation that is in need. I must seek the deep parts of my being, to seek out God and others who can help me find the true meaning of who I am. I'm up for it; how about you?

I pray that this speaks to you today. Let us seek God; he will be waiting for us to restore all there is to restore according to His will.

God bless and don't forget to be kind to yourself and to others.

Peace, Light, and Love,

Paster J

The Shepherd's Helper



Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress. I will never be shaken.

~ Psalm 62:1-2 NIV

Hello Saints!

It's been a minute! I hope this note finds you well.

The passage above has given me insight into the nation's current crises. With all the unrest, I have been focusing on "Truly my soul finds rest in God". I have had to turn off the TV at times, stay off Facebook, and concentrate on these words. This has helped to bring things back into perspective. The only way to find rest is God.

He is my rock and salvation; with him, I will not be shaken. This is important especially because of my anxiety. I can get really shaken when things are not comfortable for me. Having this Scripture has helped me to experience some new things without being totally frozen in anxiety. I repeat my new mantra "You are smart; you are brave. You are strong, you are confident, you can do this with God's help." My soul finds rest; I am not shaken.

I hope this is helpful in some way for you. I miss my church family and sharing worship with you all.

God bless,

Miss Chris

Coming Attractions!

COVID-19 has certainly changed things and we miss worshipping together. But God is good and his Spirit has shown us a way to safely gather in person. We look forward to celebrating Christ with you again very soon!

GPS Bible Study & Worship starts the week of **October 12th**. Held on **Mondays, 6:30pm (Min. Janet), Wednesdays, 7:00pm (Pastor Tee), and Thursdays, 6:30pm (DIT Jenna)**, you choose the day/time that best fits your schedule. That becomes your night for in-person worship and learning. Seating is limited to 14 people, so you **MUST SIGN UP** to attend—**NO WALK-INS**. **This worship format will continue until further notice.**



Physical distancing and masks/face coverings are required. Temperatures will be checked, hand sanitizer will be readily available, and everyone will help with clean up/sanitizing at the close of our time together.

Follow this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084DAAAB29A2F94-gpsbible>

Investing in God's Vision

So two good things will result from this ministry of giving - the needs of the believers...will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

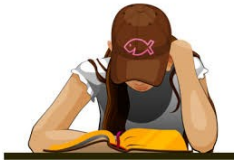
~ 2 Corinthians 9:12 NLT

Our God takes care of his people and we thankfully give back to him for all his blessings. Below are ways for you to give your tithe to God:

- **Cash** - Drop off an envelope with your name on it through the side door mail slot at the church.
- **Check** - Mail a check to the church. Be sure to write 'tithe' in the memo line.
- **Credit** - Click the **Donate** button at the bottom of our website home page at <https://www.efcakron.org/>

An **offering** is any amount you give—over and above your usual tithe. ACME Fresh Market's **Community Cash Back Program** is an easy way to do this. Friends and family can help, too! Shop your nearest ACME Fresh Market and earn 5% cash back on selected brands. Save your receipts and we'll collect them later.





Into the Word

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

~ Romans 15:4 NLT

Our theme for 2020 is "Trust in the Lord." Reflect on these Scripture passages when you need to be encouraged to trust God this year:

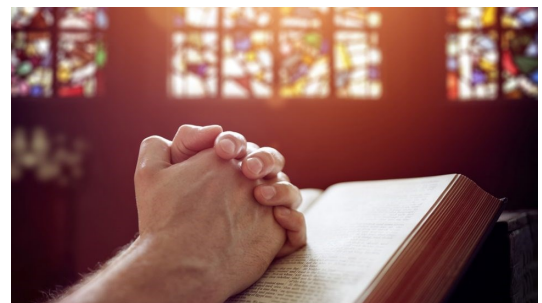
1. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. ~ Psalm 28:7 NIV
2. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. ~ Psalm 62:8 NIV
3. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
~ Psalm 20:7 NIV
4. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal. ~ Isaiah 26:4 NIV
5. But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ~ Jeremiah 17:7 NIV
6. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? ~ Psalm 56:3-4 NIV
7. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ~ 1 John 5:14 NIV

An Invitation to Prayer

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. ~ Colossians 4:2 NLT

Prayer is vital to our lives, our spiritual maturity, and the life of our church. Please lift the following to God each day:

- † ***Your personal concerns***
- † The Spiritual Leadership & Praise Teams
- † The Trustees & Officers
- † EFC members, visitors, and friends
- † Grandparents everywhere
- † Comfort for those grieving the loss of a loved one
- † Relief and support for those considering suicide
- † An end to the pandemic
- † Responsible governmental leadership
- † An end to systemic racism and other injustices



To submit personal confidential prayer requests:

- ♥ Send a text to **Minister Janet** at **330.631.4846** ***OR***
- ♥ Click "**Contact Us**" on our home page at <https://www.efcakron.org/>

Ministries Update

Here's where things stand with our current ministries:



Outreach

- † **Bible Ministry**—*Pastor Tee*: Another \$620 was donated and additional Bibles were purchased for the clients at IBH.
- † **College Outreach**—*Minister Janet & DIT Ben*: Will contact local colleges and universities to inform them of our church and what we have to offer.
- † **Community Dinners**—*Mary Richards*: This crew continues to prepare and distribute meals to our neighbors in need. We've seen an increase in the number of guests needing food.
- † **Food Pantry**—*DIT Alberta*: We welcome DIT Alberta as the new Torchbearer for this ministry. She brings much experience to this program and we look forward to seeing how the Lord works through her. Many thanks to the Community Dinner volunteers for keeping things moving in the interim. The Pantry also received a tremendous donation of food and money from two local American Legion Auxiliary Units. What an awesome blessing! God is so good.
- † **Neighborhood Playground**—*DIT Jenna*: We have decided not to move forward with this project. The property requirements from the grantors were untenable for us. We pray another grantee is able to handle the project.
- † **SNAP Gap Day**—*Mary Richards*: Date to be announced

Fundraising

- \$ **ACME Community Cash Back Program**—Buy selected brands at ACME and save your receipts; they'll be collected at a later time.

Jesus Wants YOU!



As we enter the fall, it's time to think about our upcoming election... No, not the presidential election LOL. It's time for the election of our church's Administrative Leadership, i.e. officers & trustees. These positions are vital to the life and day-to-day operations of our church. There are some openings and we are asking **ALL** church members to prayerfully consider running for them.

Beloved, this is important. Jesus works in and through each of us to accomplish his good plan. What is Jesus calling you to do? How is he calling you to serve your church? You can do this. Start thinking and praying about it now.

Current Church Council Vacancies

- ◆ Three (3) Trustee seats
- ◆ Council Secretary
- ◆ Assistant Council Secretary
- ◆ Assistant Treasurer
- ◆ Council Chair

Questions?

Contact Deacon Sue at 330.962.1917 or Pastor Tee at 330.730.4106