

# ...from the Heart

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*Spring 2019*



## Does Spring Exist?

Let us pretend that seasons represent characters in a story?

Imagine a grand multitude of individuals, in great need.

Life, for them, has become cold, hard and hopeless!

To make matters worse, they must contend with a cruel ruler, by the name of, Winter.

Winter makes it his business to lie and discourage the masses:

“You have been born into this icy world, and you will one day die in it!

Furthermore, the stories which have been in circulation for many years are  
simply not true!

There is no savior by the name of Spring.

No one who possesses the power to melt and change your cold hard existence;  
who is able to deliver on the 'fairy tales' of warmth, love, kindness, and color.

No one is coming to help you!”

Now, there are still *some* who can be found among the  
throngs of souls, who [refuse] to give up and give in;  
proclaiming Spring has visited us, and he will one day return!

My dear family, in whom I continue to grow in love with, Spring does exist! Spring is well on its way. Soon we will sing Christ the Lord has risen today! But why wait? The stone was rolled away, long ago. He knocks, and if we but open the door, He will visit us numerous times, each day. By the power of His Word, He melts every icy lie; revealing the substanceless of the cruel ruler's deceptions.



Do we struggle with circumstances beyond our abilities to overcome?  
Now is the time to surrender our conditions to Him.  
Is there anything or anyone, holding us captive in their icy grip?  
It does not matter how long!  
Do you believe Spring is coming?  
Believe also Christ is ready and able to set us free!  
Spring, like Christ Jesus, is about blessing us with *new life*.

Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new.

The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!  
2 Cor. 5:17 MSG

*Pastor Vin*



## *...from the Heart*

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**Sunday Service at 10am**

**Pastor: Vincent Linguiti**

Check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net) for Sermons,  
Church activities and other events

## In My Father's Footsteps

Psalm 37: 29-34

Psalm 40:8

"Make sure you follow your father, so you don't slip. He'll show you where it's safe to walk."

Those were the early morning instructions of my 82-year old mother to my 57-year old self as I prepared to go to the barn with my Dad to tend to their horses. It's about a 100-foot walk and the ground curves on a slight downhill incline.



A recent combination of rain on top of snow had created a thin coating of ice that covered most of the gravel and grass parking area between the house and the barn. An overnight dusting of snow now covered the ice, making it harder to see.

I walked several feet behind Dad as he pulled a wagon containing jugs of water for the horse's troughs. While we walked, he pointed out more icy spots on the grassy areas along our path. I wouldn't have noticed those spots without his help.

In the barn, Dad and I alternated between conversation and silence as we set about our tasks. If you're wondering what my job is, I am the frozen-and-stuck-to-the-ground-horse-poop scooper.

While it's not pretty work, it's necessary, and getting to work alongside Dad, whom I love so dearly, is the best part. I simply enjoy being with him and, despite the near-zero temperature, being with Dad made the cold feel less, well, *cold*.

Once the barn chores were finished, I followed Dad back to the house. As before, he pointed out the slippery spots, reminding me to walk carefully.

The next morning, we headed out again, but this time I led; pulling the wagon as Dad followed. His voice behind me reminded me to watch out for ice, but I had to pay much closer attention since I was out in front. Even though I couldn't see Dad, it was comforting to hear his voice, and it was in my best interest to pay attention to his instructions. Although I visit four or five times a year, this place is his home. He knows it far better than I do.

No matter how old we advance in Christian-years, we still need reminders to follow our Father's footsteps, so we don't slip as we go through the day.

His reminders will come to us as we read the Bible, from the Holy Spirit, prayer and meditation, and through trusted family and friends, to name a few.

Our Father is always watching out for us and, even though we may not see Him, we are never out of His line of sight. He protects us from injury as He guides us around the slippery spots. He shows us hidden dangers where a painful fall is one misplaced step away. He instructs us where to walk and what to avoid. Sometimes He walks in front of us and sometimes He stays behind us as we learn to lead. No matter what the terrain looks like, we can confidently entrust our safety to Him. It's wonderful to have the assurance that, if we heed His advice and follow His instructions, we will safely accomplish the tasks He sets before us every day.

No matter how lofty or lowly the work may be, we'll delight to do it for Him. The best part? We will also have joy-filled memories of doing that work with someone we love dearly; our Abba, Father.

Sue Cerruto,

Hospitality

## Spring Means New Life

As I sit here to write this, it is twelve degrees outside. It's hard to think Spring in such conditions – LOL. I thought of what Spring indicates – new growth, fresh flowers, warmer days, and new life all around us. I thought of the verse from **2 Cor. 5:17** – ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*** (ESV) This is a Spring message to me. It speaks about our very lives when we give our all to God.



This is Christianity-101. We all need to recognize our need for God – in whatever way we consider that. We may think we have it all together or mostly together, but down deep we know we have failed – fallen short of God's perfect goal. We try to remedy this by doing good things, but that doesn't satisfy and can't, because the Bible says, ***“There is nobody living right, not even one, nobody who knows the score, nobody alert for God.”*** (The Message).

This is the basic truth of all humanity. This is the first step in Christianity-101. We first have to realize that we are fallen, lost, away from God and cannot please Him or win His favor in our current state. The next step is easier but very challenging – repentance. We have to acknowledge that we need God, because we can't fix our condition on our own. Jesus said in **John 14:6** – ***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*** (ESV). We must recognize that Jesus is the only way to be redeemed and saved. **Rom. 10:9** – ***“... if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*** (ESV).

In Him we have forgiveness and salvation. **1 John 1:9** – ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** (ESV). Once our sins are forgiven we are given the right to become children of God. **John 1:12** – ***“But to all who did receive Him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*** (ESV). How much more love can we want. God Himself chose to adopt us as His children for believing in His Son, Jesus Christ and what He did for us. **Rom. 5:8** – ***“but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (ESV).

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. We were lost in our sin, but God sent His son, Jesus, to come and be one of us, to die and shed his blood on our behalf. We have life in Him; we have forgiveness in Him. In fact, **Acts 4:12** – ***“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*** (ESV). This is Christianity-101 in black and white.

So, if you are a long time Christian or someone who doesn't yet have a personal relationship with God through Jesus, we all need to hear this message and do something about it. God wants a relationship with you and me – not just our attendance at a church service. Give Him your heart today. OR – renew your relationship with Him now. We all get into routine, even in our faith. Like the plants and flowers die off in the winter, we too, sometimes get stale and frosted over at times. BUT Spring is coming! It's time for new life, new growth, new relationship, new fervor in your faith and walk with God.

I pray your Spring is reviving for you and your relationship with the Lord. He would want nothing more at this time of new beginnings – SPRING.

Praying for you all,  
Pastor Nick

## WOMENS MINISTRY

Even though we are in the middle of winter, we had a few spring-like days this week that inspired me to write an article for our spring newsletter.

In both of our Ladies groups that meet weekly, we have been studying a book by Max Lucado on the book of James. We read several portions of Scripture each week, reflect by answering questions from the book and have a lively time of discussion when we meet. No matter how often we may have read a book in the Bible, there is always something new for us to learn.

As always, we spend a good portion of time praying for the needs of our families, church family, communities and nation. It is a blessing to have this time each week to come together to learn, share our hearts and encourage one another.

We had a Ladies Brunch on February 16th. These meetings are very casual and informal and meant to be a time to get together for food and fellowship. It is a nice way to build our relationships with our "sisters" and all ladies are welcome to join us. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, we will host another one-day Ladies Retreat at our church. Our guest speaker will be Joanna Fruhauf who will lead us in worship and share a dynamic teaching. All the details, along with a registration form, will be available shortly. Start thinking about a mom, sister, daughter, co-worker or friend that you could invite to join in for a very special time.

In March, Lent will begin as we prepare to celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord. This is the perfect opportunity to set aside some time each day to really focus on what the life, death and resurrection of Christ really means to us. There is a line in a chorus we sing that says, "With His blood He has saved me; with His love He has raised me; to God be the glory for the things He has done".

May our hearts be filled with joy and thanksgiving as we nurture our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,  
Mary Ann





## Weekly Schedule

Subject to Change

### Sunday

10am - Service - Nursery available  
10:45am - Children's Sunday School - Fellowship Hall  
10:45am - Teen Bible Study - HPYC Building  
1st Sunday of Month - Holy Communion  
& Family Sunday

### Monday

7pm - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month - **September through April** –  
M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network) - Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday

7pm - Every Tuesday - Ladies-In-Touch at Mary Ann Malcolm's Home

### Wednesday

7pm - New Bible Study begins March 13 - Fellowship Hall.

### Thursday

10am - Every Thursday - Ladies Prayer & Bible Study Group - HPYC Building  
7pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month - **Sept. - Nov., Feb. - June** - Ladies Sewing Circle - HPYC

### Friday

6:30pm - Worship Team practice in the Sanctuary

### Saturday

8am - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month - **September through April** - Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

For other Spring activities, consult your Sunday Bulletin and Monday email memo's.



## Coming Up...

### In March...

March 6 - Ash Wednesday  
March 10 - Daylight Saving Time begins  
March 20 - First day of Spring

### In April...

April 13 - Ladies One Day Retreat  
April 14 - Palm Sunday  
April 19 - Good Friday  
April 21 - Easter Sunday

### In May...

May 2 - National Day of Prayer  
May 12 - Mother's Day  
May 27 - Memorial Day



## FOOD PANTRY

OPEN MON, WED, FRI  
10AM - 2PM  
65 Franklin St. HPYC Building



# Ladies Sewing Circle

Hi my stitching friends.

I love stitching during the colder months, having a nice warm project on your lap made with yummy yarn. Yesterday as I was crocheting, I encountered a giant snarly knotted mess in my skein of yarn. I worked at trying to unravel it for about an hour by myself to no avail. Now crocheting itself is like making organized knots with a needle, but when you come upon a mangled mess that is no longer workable not much can be done but to cut it out. So that's what I did, I cut the giant mangled mess right out of the middle. Then slowly I was able to eventually untangle it and have a nice long piece of yarn except it needed to be tied back onto the cut ends. This left two knots, a tiny bump, a scar so to speak, no longer perfect. So it is with us. We can be going along all things working smoothly until we come upon that tangled mess – whether of our own making or not – if you want to move on you need to do something about it. We can try to do it on our own but sometimes it is so unmanageable it needs to be cut out. God can remove and help smooth out those knotty messes in our lives but there always remains a reminder of where it once was, that we are not perfect, but in the end the project will be completed. Any small imperfections will not be noticed in the finished project. God can help you untangle the messes of your life; He loves us imperfections and all. Join us on the third Thursday of the month 7pm at the Youth Center for the Ladies Sewing Circle. Bring any project (sewing or craft) you are working on for a few hours of uninterrupted creativity and fellowship.

Coming up: March 21, April 18, May 16

Corinne Franco



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Happy Spring Church Family,

We have been having great Sunday school meetings talking about peer pressure and the daily struggles we can and do go through. We have now entered a new topic of the 13 most important things to know in the Bible. We kicked that off with the topic of prayer. We as a group realized, us leaders included, we do not give the time of day to Jesus as he gives to us and how can we fix that and grow? We are looking forward to diving into that more.

Snow camp did not happen this year due to lack of teens wanting to go but we do have some summer ideas we plan on running by the Pastor and their parents; some fun group outings! We hope this Summer, to do a few teen nights (youth group) when the teens won't be busy with school anymore.

The group of teens we do have are very advanced and are fortunate to have families who talk about God, Jesus & the Bible, so we are looking for any suggestions for more mature material but also teen approachable for when we do have visitors etc.

Love & Blessings,

The Messinas

# *Give Generously to Easter Offering for World Evangelism this April.*

Your personal gifts reach around the world to change lives and transform hearts in Jesus' name ... making Christ-like disciples in the nations. The World Evangelism Fund fuels the Church of the Nazarene's mission by combining your personal and the church's gift together to fund ministries everywhere.

The World Evangelism Fund goal for every church is 5.5% of their income for the year. The World Evangelism Fund (WEF): includes general WEF giving, the Easter Offering, Faith Promise, and the Thanksgiving Offering.

When you give, the money goes to the General Treasurer's Office where the funds are distributed to various regions, missionaries, and ministries around the globe. The World Evangelism Fund not only provides ministries on the ground with the monies they need, but the money is used to ensure that legal, federal, and support needs are met so that ministries are as safe as possible and can be sustained for years to come.

Here are a few examples of ministries that the World Evangelism Fund makes possible through direct funding or the ministry network:

- New churches and ministry outposts
- Missionaries
- Regional ministries
- Christian literature and resources
- Partner Ministries such as JESUS Film Harvest Partners, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and many more.
- Holiness education

All of this work only happens because of the combined gifts of people like you! Thank you for your faithfulness to give and pray for Nazarene mission work everywhere.

*Sympathy & Prayers to Darrin Smith & family on the passing of his Mother in law and to Sue Herrmann & family on the passing of her Grandmother.*

*Our dear sister, Betty Brown, passed away on February 11, 2019. George and Betty Brown helped to physically build and establish our church. George passed away in 2014. They had been living in Pennsylvania.*





## DECISIONS, DECISIONS



An amazing phenomenon has recently been discovered. According to researcher Teresa Woodruff, when a sperm meets an egg at human conception, a flash of light is emitted! Researchers have actually captured these mini fireworks on film. In Genesis, we read the first words ever spoken by God: *Let there be light...* Genesis 1:3 (NLT). Some have claimed that this phenomenon of light at conception is merely a chemical/biological reaction. As a Christian I am astounded at the conclusions people can reach even when the signature of God is clearly visible. Is it just the filter of individuality that colors their view or is it an intentional dulling of God given spiritual senses, a blurring beyond recognition of the moral lines of right and wrong.

Eugene Peterson's note from the book of Esther: *It seems odd that the awareness of God or even of the people of God brings out the worst in some people. God, the source of all goodness, blessing and joy, at times becomes the occasion for nearly unimaginable acts of cruelty, atrocity and evil.* In the book of Esther, Haman, the arch enemy of the Jews, actively plotted their destruction. He had cast the *pur* (the lot) an all out attempt to kill every Jewish man, woman, and child. The destruction of an entire race of people is called *genocide*. We are familiar with this concept because of Nazis' attempt to do the same thing to the Jews in the Holocaust. The word *pur* is where the Jewish celebration of Purim comes from. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, millions of Jews will celebrate God's deliverance from what looked like certain annihilation. The book of Esther is a story of desperation but also divine providence, *for such a time as this ...* Working behind the scenes God preemptively puts the right people in the right places for the challenge about to befall them from the highest levels of government.

On January 22, 2019, the state of New York passed one of the most barbaric abortion laws in U.S. history, essentially making it legal to abort a baby at any stage of pregnancy, up to the moment of birth. It even removes legal protections for babies born alive from botched abortions. Psychologist Dr. James Dobson tearfully explained, on a radio broadcast, that if a baby somehow survives the abortion, it must be left unattended until it dies.

Also included in the law, medical professionals do not necessarily have to be doctors. The historic vote was timed so the law would be passed on the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Roe v. Wade case. It was reported that State Assembly legislators cheered at the bill's passage, seeing this legislation as liberating for women rather than as infanticide. If like me, you are stunned by the coldness and disconnection of our legislators to the consequences of such a measure, consider this. For decades pro activists have sought to pass such a law but could not because they lacked the votes in the Senate. This election year changed all of that.

In 479 BC Haman had cleverly and powerfully positioned himself under the authority of the Persian king with the power to completely eradicate God's people. What kept it from happening? Once Esther recognized the actions of the enemy of God, it forced her to make a decision, speak up or remain silent. Putting her life on the line, Esther rose to the occasion. She went from being a beauty queen to a passionate intercessor, courageously speaking up for God's people.

There are times when God directly fights for us but most of the time He fights through us. *Whenever there are people of God, there are enemies of God.* (Eugene Peterson) We too have a part to play in God's plan. It starts with clear vision and a willingness to make a decision; do we remain inactive or speak out against evil of our time? Jesus' words, "*You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless* Matt 5: 13 (NLT). We must be responsible to each other and to God in this community of faith. If our laws do not protect the most defenseless of all Americans, the unborn child, none of us are safe. Do we remain silent and invisible or do we with God's grace and empowerment take a stand?

Serving Him Together,

Pastor John

