

# ...from the Heart



*Published quarterly by the Patchogue Church of the Nazarene*

## Who Is Like Our Lord?

Whatever is on our minds usually makes its way out of our mouths. It could be something enjoyable and exciting we experienced that we want to share! It may simply be a passing thought. On the other hand, it may be a troubling thought, a bodily ache, the suffering of someone we love. Then, rather than us having a thought, it seems our thoughts have us, and they're legitimate concerns. Over time, without us realizing it, a *film* can form over our hearts, and that *layer* considerably affects how we do life.

As we head into our second year of Covid, the *tug of war* over whether or not to trust the vaccines continue. Although the presidential election is behind us, the sword of politics continues to wave for war. I foresee a forced march into the midterm elections, and then right into the presidential elections of 2024, without ever a breath of fresh air. I continually hear the above subjects take control over our speech patterns. However, far more troubling, is the thick coat which continues to cover over our hearts, and the effect it has on the Lord's good people; our relationship to Christ and the carrying out of His Mission is slowly but steadily, being replaced by causes.

Let me ask you, when was the last time you experienced His touch on your life? When was the last time you heard His whisper? When was the last time He redirected your thoughts and actions, or made such an impression on you that you haven't been the same since? When was the last time you experienced the joy of making a difference in the life of another person, for Christ's sake?

Proverbs 4:23 tells us, *above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

From Front Cover

Our relationship to Christ has always been, and forever will be, a heart thing, not a head thing; the spirit of Christ dwells in our hearts, not our heads. Yet, it seems our faith is taking its leads from causes pelting our minds, day in and day out.

In Romans 12:1 & 2, Paul instructs us: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

The heart renews the mind, not the other way around. The heart, the center, is where the Lord who set galaxies in motion lives. He who created life is continually looking to produce new life in each of us. Transformation!

Are we worshipping Him? I am not asking you if you are singing when you are in church or at home. I am asking you if you are coming into contact with the Lord? Are you in the Word of God? Are you reading your Bible? Are you spending more time in your Bible than you are with your favorite media outlets or Facebook page?

Please make time to read Psalm 71. In this prayer and hymn, the Psalmist is experiencing the Lord! Listen to what comes out of his mouth because it represents what is happening in his heart! Here are some clips:

*For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge. Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day, I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I tell your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. Who is like our Lord?*

If we know Him, we know the answer, no one! The time has come and is here. It is time to turn to the Lord and turn back to the Word of God. Pastor Vin

## *...from the Heart*

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FOOD PANTRY OPEN - MON, WED, FRI, 10 - 2

For our weekly schedule of meetings, check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)

Sermons live stream on Facebook. Find us on YouTube.

# JUNE 20 - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

## Women's Ministry



In a matter of weeks, spring has arrived in all its glory! The flowers and trees are blooming; the birds are building nests and welcoming new babies and we are enjoying the pleasure of being outside more often. Little by little, life is getting back to “normal” and we are experiencing that in our various church groups.

In our Thursday Ladies Group, we recently finished a book that looked at the many different friendships illustrated in the Bible. There always seems to be new insight as we read and share our thoughts with one another.

We have already started another book entitled “Becoming a Woman of Simplicity”. The first chapter encouraged us to “be still” before our Lord amidst the hustle and bustle of our lives. There are so many distractions that vie for our attention each day and it is very easy to put the most important thing, spending time with God, at the end of our daily lists. We look forward to more encouragement as we read and study in the weeks ahead.

As always, we have a dedicated time of prayer as we lift up our families, our church families and our nation. When we have “taken care of business” we open the hymnals and sing from our hearts as Janet plays the piano with much flair!

During the summer months, we don't do a formal study but continue to pray, sing and share a weekly devotion. If you are available on a Thursday morning at 10 A.M., feel free to join us...we would love to have you there.

We still haven't been able to have any Saturday brunches but hopefully in the fall we can start those up again. It is a wonderful time of fellowship as we share a meal and get to know each other better. As we continue moving forward in our lives, I pray that you will be filled with the peace, joy and hope that only Jesus can give us. He is with us no matter what is going on in our lives.

Summer is a time of vacations and leisure when children are home from school and families spend more time together. Be sure to include time with the Lord before you start your activities for the day...He will love hearing from you.

Serving together,  
*Mary Ann*



# Turning Point - What's In A Name?

A lot, as it turns out! The Bible recounts several instances when the name of a person or place changed.



## God changed the name of:

1. Abram (Exalted father) to Abraham (Father to many)  
Genesis 17:5
2. Sarai (Princess) to Sarah (Princess-who is the mother of many)  
Genesis 17:15
3. Jacob (Heel-holder, supplanter) to Israel (One who contends, strives, or fights with God) Genesis 32:28
5. *Saul (Asked for or Prayed for) to Paul (Small or Humble)*  
*Acts 13:13*
6. Simon (He has heard) to Peter (Rock/Stone) Matthew 16:18

Each name change came with a turning point in the life of that person. Their new name would reflect their new identity and purpose in God's plans.

## Geographical names changed because of some notable event or happening.

Genesis 21:31, Genesis 33:17, Joshua 7:26, 1 Chronicles 13:11, 2 Samuel 5:20&1 Chronicles 14:11, Judges 15:19.

## Let's look at the Great Turning Point of 2020.

Everything that was, or was perceived to be, familiar, logical, dependable, and safe came to a crashing halt. The lockdowns, closures, restrictions, fears, threats, fighting, and instability that began last year continue to impact us all. Some changes might be temporary, but many might be permanent.

As the Church begins to move into a post-lockdown framework, what will we expect? A lot will depend on the positive or negative attitudes we bring to the new way of being a local congregation. We might not be what we once were, but we must not wallow in corporate or individual self-pity, looking back longingly on the past. Did God know what was coming? Yes. Did He stop it from happening? No. Was it good? Yes. Why? Because God is good, therefore all God's plans are good no matter how we choose to perceive them or receive them. We have a choice! For instance, we can focus on God's mercy and provision. He brought our church through the past year virtually unscathed in every way; an enormous victory! He did it, not because *we're* good but because *He* is good.

Finally, the heart that repents and submits to the will of a holy and sovereign God does more to bring stability to this world than any speech, march, riot, demonstration, or piece of legislation could ever hope to achieve.

That's a turning point we can all live with.

-Sue Cerruto, Hospitality  
Rom. 8:28, Gal. 5:13-25, Col. 3,  
and the entire book of James.





Matthew 19:14

*“Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

It is with great honor that I announce the First Holy Communion of Brody Edward Beutel, Damon Jamie Boutsikos, Amelia Katherine Ehrlinger, Jack Michael Ehrlinger, Thomas Joseph Ehrlinger, Nathan James Franco, Timothy Jacob Herrmann, Mia Rose Inniss, Carter Orenzow, and Luc Orenzow, on May 23, 2021.

It is such a blessing to have had the opportunity to share in the spiritual growth of these precious children of God. The children have all shown their desire to build a relationship with Jesus and embrace his sacrifice for us. I am so proud of their hearts and I know that God has an amazing plan for each of them. As they receive this sacrament, I pray for God’s hand among these precious children. I pray they continue throughout all their years to always grow and stand in His faith; to continue to show their love for Him and continue to become His little disciples. I pray their hearts be filled with His presence in all they do as they continue to know and trust Him in everything they encounter.

Desiree Boutsikos  
Children’s Ministry Director

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### Seasons – Ecc. 3:1

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:...” (NIV)*

Seasons come and go. My favorite season is about to begin – Summer. Spring has been a rodeo of weather conditions. One day it was warm; the next day is cold and windy; the next day is rainy and cold. It was too much to bare and more than we could count on. We want constant temperatures and clear skies. Don’t you?

The writer of Ecclesiastes says it is plain and simple, but how does that help us cope with the changing conditions we face daily? Yes, there is a season for everything under heaven. That in and of itself does not satisfy my inner desire to understand my situation day in and day out.

This is our Summer newsletter, but it is still Spring where I live. LOL. I so long for Summer. It is my favorite season. Hot weather, the pool, GOLF, and working in the yard. I even like mowing my lawn. It is therapeutic for me. I go outside and enter the zone. I don’t hear anything besides my mower and an occasional car passing by. It is the best time for me.

Of course, there is GOLF. I can play any day when it is not raining. Temperatures are not usually the issue. Whether I play well or not does not matter to me. I just enjoy being out there with friends and playing this crazy sport. Summer affords me that luxury.

So, seasons are in place. We roll with them as best we can. However, there is another aspect to seasons... We have seasons of our lives as well. The writer of Ecclesiastes said it well. There is a season for everything under heaven. Your spiritual life is subject to seasons as well. What season are you in?

You may feel like you are in the season of Fall. Everything is dying around you. All your pretty plants and vegetables have reached their climax for the year, and it's time to move on.

Or, you might be in a season of Winter. Everything you love is shriveled and dormant. There's nothing to look forward to except the next season when things can be restored or rebuilt.

The season of Winter is terrible for many. Cold, rain, snow, and ice plague us every day. It seems like the longest season of all to many. We miss the sunshine and the warmth. We long for that to return. Then we change the clocks ahead and Spring has sprung for us. Days are longer and so is the light of day. It inspires us not to lose hope. There are better days coming.

So, how are you feeling? Are you stuck in Winter or even Spring? We have so much to be thankful for. God has given us the seasons so we can know what is expected and what's to come. Look around you. A new season is about to be presented. Get ready for Summer. It's just around the corner, and so are the next seasons in their time. Enjoy the season we are in now and know that God is there with you. Stay faithful to the Lord and He will reward you. "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do will prosper." Ps. 1:3 (NIV)

We have a mission – a goal – something to focus on. There are so many out there who don't know the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility to God to take our hope of eternal life to those who are all around us. We need to tell them about the Seasons of our life. They need to hear that there is a season for them as well, and it is all in God's control. Pray for those we know or work with so the Lord can open a door for you to simply share about the seasons of your life and how they can be a part of that Gift of God.

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Tim. 4:2 (NIV)

Blessings and Grace,  
Pastor Nick



Pray for families who have lost loved ones:  
Paul Gugliuzzo Dad, **Paul Sr.**; Kathy Golden's brother, **Kevin Regan**;  
Evelyn Cortes' Mom, **Eva Sanchez**; Melba Hopkins' Mom, **Mary Coyles**;  
Tony & Phyllis Visalli's son, **Angelo**; and Rob Gazzo's Dad, **Attilio**.

## An Earth Day Reflection

At the end of April, retired astronaut and NASA explorer Michael Collins passed away at the age of 90. He of course was one of the three astronauts of the Apollo 11 space mission, which was the first space flight to land humans on the Moon. Michael Collins never stepped foot on the Moon; he was piloting the command module in order to pick up Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin once they returned from the surface of the Moon. The fiftieth anniversary of the lunar landing was only a couple years ago, and Michael Collins reflected on the mission at a Kennedy Library event. What he reflected on, however, was not the moon. “Compared to the view of the Earth, I thought the Moon was nothing . . . the Earth was just gorgeous. Tiny little shiny blue and white, a smear of rust across it that we call the continents, a glorious sight.”

Another former astronaut from another lunar mission had a similar kind of reaction. Frank Borman, the mission commander of the Apollo 8 space mission, had an unexpected encounter with the Earth. The mission was to orbit the Moon, and in that the astronauts were successful, but the highlight of the mission was what they saw from their lunar orbit; Borman witnessed the Earth rising from the lunar horizon. The crew took a number of photographs of the event; one in particular is called Earthrise, and it is one of the most influential photographs ever taken. Borman later reflected, “It was small enough you could cover it with your thumbnail. The dearest things in my life were back on the Earth. That was the high point of the flight for me.”



I say all this because these two men were in a position where they had this unique perspective of the Earth. We just finished up a Bible study on the book of Colossians, and I was reminded of how different perspectives can in a way strengthen our faith. Paul writes in Chapter 1 of Jesus: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created . . . all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.” What Paul is describing is almost a cosmic perspective of Christ; it’s like he’s describing Jesus from the lunar orbit.

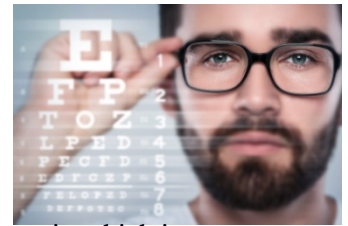
It sounds so simple, but at the same time it is so radical, that all things hold together in Christ. The dearest things in our lives are all bound up in Him. The very Earth that Frank Borman could obscure with a thumbnail was created not only through Jesus Christ, but also *for* Jesus Christ. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness therein.” As scary and crazy and dysfunctional as our day to day lives have been this year or so plus, I take comfort in this: that everything belongs to Christ, that He has not forgotten us, and that He has called us out of this earth in order for us to reclaim it for Him.

JON OLLETT



**ALL ABOARD! VBS IS BACK!!**  
**IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR FUN**  
MONDAY JULY 5 TO FRIDAY JULY 9  
SEE SUE HERRMANN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

# The Farsighted Approach



*"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." - Charles Spurgeon*

When was the last time God answered your prayer in the exact manner in which it was requested? If you're like most of us the answer is probably never. Ok, don't declare me a heretic just yet. I'm not suggesting God doesn't answer prayer; on the contrary, the Lord is far more faithful in His response to our prayers than we deserve. I'm simply echoing the prophet Isaiah as he states the very words of God. *"My thoughts are not your thoughts," says the LORD, "and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."* Isa 55:8 (NLT) It seems God is up to something greater than our near sighted, singular requests. When difficulty and dilemma threaten our sense of security, He is poised to hear our prayers. It's during dark moments of uncertainty that our faith grows the most. This is when our prayers become powerful and effective. *The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. James 5:16 (MSG)* God's answer to this kind of prayer is far greater in scope than the original petition.

David's story in 1Samuel, Chapters 27 - 30, provides a *case in point*, scenario. David had been living in Philistine territory under the protection of king Achish, away from King Saul's relentless pursuit. When Achish told David he and his men would have to join him in a battle against the armies of Israel, David quickly agreed. God however, who works by insight not eye sight caused the Philistine commanders to reject Achish plan, keeping David from taking actions that would have ruined his future as Israel's next king.

When David and his men returned to their base camp they found it deserted and burning. Amalekite raiders had taken everything including wives, children, and livestock. Looking for someone to blame, David's men were about to stone him. *But David found strength in the LORD his God. 1 Sam 30:5 (NLT)* David prayed fervently asking God two questions: Should I chase after the raiders? Will I catch them? God answered with an affirmative YES. But God's farsighted plan was far more encompassing, than David's prayer. Not only had God protected David from action that would have ruined his future, he sent him back in time to overtake the Amalekites, rescue his family, and send some of the additional plunder to the towns of Judah, as an installment of good will for the future.

As He so often does, God turned a disaster into a victory. It seems He delights in doing these kinds of things for His children and He's ready to do it for you. Whatever the problem you're staring down: illness, financial uncertainty, political pressure, family tragedy, or fear of the unknown, nothing is too difficult for the God of the Universe. If God had a personal business card it would read: *No job is too difficult.* Maybe you're reading this and thinking, but I'm in no position to make such a request of God. If that's your mind set let me assure you, you're in the perfect position. God's farsighted planning has accounted for this season of your life. The Holy Spirit is calling you by name, ready to receive and answer your prayer in a way you might think unimaginable. This problem you're facing is an opportunity in disguise. Listen to God's Word spoken by of the prophet Jeremiah: *'Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.'* Jeremiah 33:3 (MSG) Stop listening to that voice of condescension that tells you it's too late. Listen instead to the voice of hope that tells you His vision for you is far greater than your own.

Serving Him Together,  
Pastor John Mercurio