

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

MARCH 2023

From the Pastor....

As you read this article, we are only a few days into the Lenten season. I encourage you to find some Lenten devotional to help guide you through any spiritual awareness or awakening during this time. One of the older devotions I use has a series that focuses on the minor voices in the Passion story and how their lives were impacted. Carl Gregg writes a biblical based fiction about the passion from the eyes of a servant girl who experienced it first hand. Below is an excerpt from that same series. I think this one is meaningful to me because of my daughter, Lucy. I wonder, after reading it, what do it teach you?



Happy Reading:

The Servant Girl

Mark 14:66-72

My name has been lost to history, but some of my story was passed down around campfires and dinner tables—and even in sermons delivered in worship services. The fact that my name has been forgotten, even though a brief part of my story is still remembered, does not surprise me, because throughout my life people knew me much more by my role of servant than by my name. After all, I was a female in a male-dominated world. I was young at a time when age often garnered respect. And I was a member of the slave class in a world where servants were at the bottom of the social ladder.

During the brief moment of my life that people still talk about, I was a servant girl in the court of the Jewish high priest Caiaphas. I had been selected for this role fifteen years earlier, the same year that a Roman official first appointed Caiaphas to high office. And I was on duty that fateful night when I saw Peter below in the courtyard of the Temple. I had only seen him once before, a few days earlier.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

**Wednesday,
March 8, 2023
@ at 6:30 pm**

Meetings take place in
the upstairs
Conference Room and
are open to all.

Continued on next page

He had been standing beside a rabbi, who was teaching to a large crowd. I asked a woman on the outskirts of the crowd, "Who is that?" She said, "The rabbi's name is Jesus and the man seated behind him is Peter"—except that she didn't say "Peter," even though that is the name under which he is most well known to history. Instead, she called him by his lesser-known Greek name, "Cephas." And that name stuck in my head because the name "**Cephas**" means "rock," and is from the same Aramaic root as my boss' name "**Caiaphas**," which also means "rock."

On the night in question, I had just brought some food to Caiaphas as he was preparing to interrogate the rabbi named Jesus whom I had seen teaching the previous week. He pushed the tray away and dismissed me rudely with an abrupt wave of his hand. As I was walking out of the room, I heard him ask the rabbi, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" At first the rabbi was silent and did not answer. As I opened the door at the servant's entrance to slip away, I heard the high

priest ask him again, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" As the door shut behind me, I heard the first two words of the rabbi's brave response: a firm, in-your-face "I am...."

On my way back to the kitchen, I looked down into the courtyard and was shocked to see Peter there. I did a double take, and thought: "That's the guy! That's the guy with the same name as my boss who was with the rabbi that my boss is in the middle of questioning!" I ran downstairs and found him warming himself by a fire in courtyard. I stared closely at his face and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." His face changed into a perplexed look. Unlike Jesus' bold, affirmative answer, "I am," Peter muttered, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." He then promptly turned his back to me and shuffled toward the forecourt of the Temple. Just at that moment a cock crowed.

I could sense that he was lying, and I knew that I was right about who he was. I could feel anger boiling up inside me, and I said under my breath, "This man has more in common with my boss than just a similar name. All these men think they can

arrogantly dismiss me as if I didn't matter."

I was sacred to lose my job. But I didn't have to let this man treat me like I didn't matter. So I followed him and said loudly, so that a number of bystanders could hear, "This man is one of them. He's one of the followers of Rabbi Jesus that was arrested earlier." This time, Peter spat out a vehement denial, and stormed away from the crowd. But the bystanders had begun to whisper amongst themselves that—now that their attention had been drawn to this stranger—he did look like the man some of them had seen with the rabbi.

After a few moments, one member of the crowd spoke up, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean!" This time, Peter began to curse and loudly swore on oath: "I do not know this man you are talking about!" At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Peter looked bewilderingly in the direction of the sound. I learned later that he was reminded at that instant of the rabbi's prediction that "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." That night I only knew that Peter broke down and wept in front of us all.

I might have acted otherwise, but—as I think

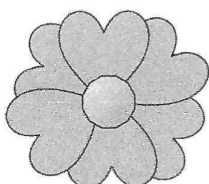
back—I was inspired to speak not only because of my frustration with Peter's denial, but also because I had so recently witnessed Jesus courageously stand up to my boss' questions with his bold, unrepentant answer, "I am." For the rest of my life, whenever I met those who claimed to be followers of the wrongly-executed Rabbi Jesus, I always paid attention to whether they were more like Jesus, whom I witnessed boldly standing up for what he knew to be true about himself, or whether they were more like Peter on the night I met him, who repeatedly denied what he knew to be true.

That is just one excerpt from this series...I hope it enriched your Lenten season.

Well...I hope to see you at church this month. These are good days for Ocker...I will save a seat for you. The weather forecast calls for Sun!

Humbled to be your pastor,

Brad



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

Spring time is just around the corner! I love when the trees green up and the flowers start blooming. It reminds me of a verse: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" Eccl 3:1
Spring time is definitely a busy time. Remember to thank God for the seasons in your life. God always has a purpose.

What's Happening:

Just a reminder that we have changed up First Sunday. Sunday, March 5th, we will have a general assembly at 9:00 a.m. to recognize birthdays and anniversaries. We will also start asking children (AND



ADULTS) for memory verses. This is so important for us to remember what God's word says and help us to apply it to our daily lives! The assembly will last no longer than 15 minutes. Children and adults will then go to class. At 9:45 a.m. children will go to the sanctuary to sing.

March Dates:

Sunday, March 5th - First Sunday; Assembly in Fellowship Hall (15 minutes)
Wednesday, March 29th - Let's stuff some Eggs for Easter!

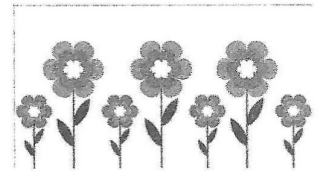
Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, April 9th - Easter Sunday, No Sunday School

Sunday, April 16th - CEC Meeting

April 21-22nd - Ocker Craft Retreat sponsored by Sunday School.

Tracie



Women of the Bible

Wednesday Evening Bible

Study will resume on March 8 in a Faith Hall Building Sunday School Classroom.

Maggie Imhoff will be leading a Bible Study on Women of the Bible.

Bring your bible and supplies for taking notes if you like.

All are welcome as this Study is open to everyone!

If you have any questions, please contact Maggie at (512) 632-0642 or email texas sunshine333@gmail.com.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Every Wednesday youth 6-8pm. Family game night is the 4th Wednesday. Dinner provided Wednesday nights. March 15 we will travel to Bro. Brad's for youth night. (see below) Looking ahead: There will be no youth night on Wednesday, April 5 because of Middle School district track meet.

- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15: YOUTH NIGHT AT BRO. BRAD'S.** We will leave the church at 3pm and return at 9pm.
- **STATE BYF RETREAT AT HUS ENCAMPMENT Saturday, March 25-Sunday, March 26.** Forms are due to Jenn no later than Wednesday, March 15.
- **YOUTH VOLLEYBALL RETREAT (ages 12-21) June 3-4:** Forms due May 15.

STATE KID'S RALLY

Hus Encampment

Sat. March 4

Van leaves that church at 7:30am; will return at 4:00pm.

OCKER BRETHERN CHURCH SKATING SOCIAL



All ages

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 23
5:30-7:30pm**

Wheels Family Skating Center

Summer Camp 2023

Register online at HUSCAMP.ORG. Use the coupon code: OCKER. Each camper is responsible for a \$50 deposit. Ocker Church pays the remainder of the fee for those that register by the deadline.

Hus School (ages 16 & older): June 4-16

Discovery (ages 14-15): June 18-23

Pioneer (ages 12-13): June 25-30

Encounter (ages 7-9): July 9-12

Alpha (ages 10-11) July 16-20

Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the Hus Encampment

Adult Volleyball Tournament & Fellowship

Registration/Check-in 9-9:30am

Tournament Meeting 9:30am

Tournament Begins 10:00am

\$20 per player

Player Registrations are due by Sunday, March 19

www.unityofthebrethrenyouth.org

Hamburger Dinner & Silent Auction

Everyone is invited to enjoy hamburgers, chips, dessert, and tea. Meal will be served at 6pm. A free will-offering will be collected. There will also be a silent auction that will run throughout the day and close at 7:00pm.

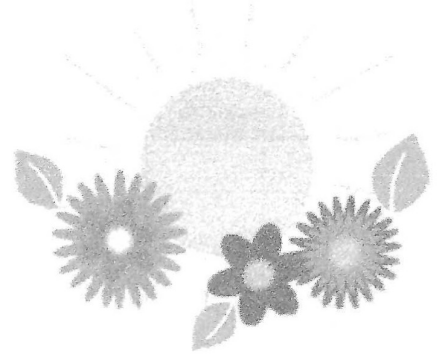
The State BYF is hosting this day of fellowship as a fundraiser for the camping program and facility improvements. If you would like to make a donation for the silent auction or need more information, please contact Kayla Marek (512) 944-2619 or Jennifer Chervenka (254) 913-1244. All checks should be made payable to "State BYF".

Mail registrations to: Jennifer Chervenka Unity Youth Coordinator 9494 Big Elm Creek Rd. Rogers, TX 76569



Operation Christmas Child Feeling Fresh

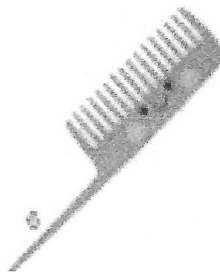
Spring is just around the corner! Spring brings new beginnings and fresh starts. Rains come to wash the ground. Trees gain new leaves. Flowers emerge and fill the air with sweet fragrances. Spring is all around.



This month, Operation Christmas Child is focused on feeling fresh for spring by **collecting hygiene items!** We will be collecting **NON-**

LIQUID hygiene products such as bars of soap, toothbrushes, lip balm, hairbrushes/combs, etc. We will also be collecting hair accessories, bandanas, socks, and flip-flops. Our goal is for every child who receives a box from Ocker will be provided with each of these items. The next time you go to the store, just think "If I pick up one package of soap today, I will be providing basic hygiene to about 10 children". Operation Christmas Child would like to challenge you to bring in at least one hygiene item each week of March. When placing the items into the donation box, we ask that you take a minute to think about the amazing impact each item will have on children in the world.

***Reminder!** The collection box is located under the OCC bulletin board in the fellowship hall just before the hallway leading to the Sunday school rooms.



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jp.chervenka@gmail.com

Youth Director:
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Church Secretary:
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Phone:
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Email: ockerbrethrenchurch
@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
Twitter: @ockerchurch
&
Facebook!

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS
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3 – Henry Jezek  
4 – Jaxon Sebek  
6 – Joanna Chervenka  
7 – John Dillard  
Ed Klinkovsky  
8 – Sharon Jungmann  
10 – Kash Stephens  
12 – Randy Lesikar  
Bernard Koenig  
19 – Beth Ashby  
20 – Joseph Doney  
Carsyn Sebek  
21 – Ronald Jungmann  
24 – Tatum Dillard  
25 – Karen Tomlin  
Taryn Tucker  
28 – Mariah Malovets  
30 – Camryn Henderson  
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March Anniversaries
5 – Leland & Sharon Jungmann
7 – Johnny & Tina Adams
20 – Scott & Amy Cummings

Christian Sisters News:
Next meeting will be
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 11:30 am.
All are invited.



The Sanctuary Choir will sing two specials at the Easter Sunday Service April 9.
Rehearsals will be Wednesday, March 29th and Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

If you enjoy singing, please come join us.
Please see Kim Dillard, Director, if you have any questions.



MARCH

2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY


TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adults Bible Study</i> 6:30 – 8 pm	2 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	3	4
5 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	6	7	8 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 6:30 – 8 pm Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 pm	9	10	11
12 SPRING FORWARD (Daylight Savings) Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	13	14	15 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adults Bible Study</i> 6:30 – 8 pm	16 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 am – 1 pm	17 	18
19 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	20	21 <i>Christian Sisters</i> <i>Meeting</i> 11:30 am	22 FAMILY GAME NIGHT 6 – 8PM	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:15 am	27	28	29 Youth Bible Study 6 – 8 pm <i>Adults Bible Study</i> 6:30 – 8 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	30 Senior Adult Fellowship 9 – 1	