



LJ Faithnews

Monthly Newsletter of La Junta First Church of the Nazarene | *March 2017*

Mark Your Calendar

3.1

Ash Wednesday Service

3.5

Camp Fundraiser/Wendy's

3.12

Daylight Saving Time Begins

3.17-19

Main Event



The Pastor's Heart

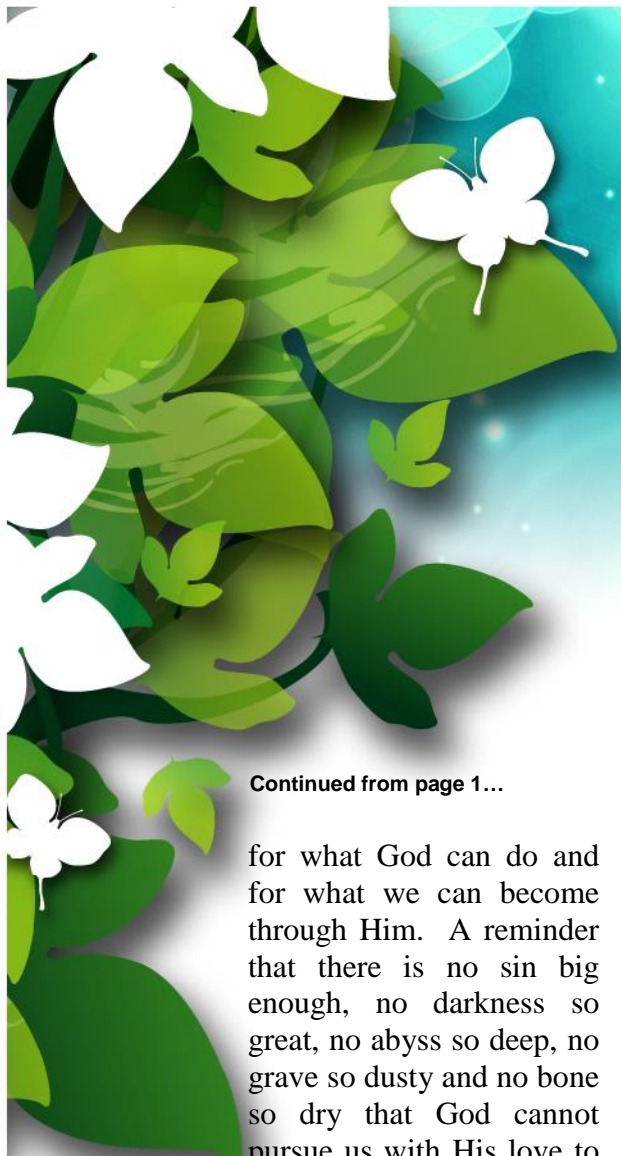
By Gordon Smith

It is impossible to start a fire from ashes. Ashes are devoid of life. We are reminded in Scripture that we are but "dust, and to dust we shall return" (Gen. 3:19). Which uncomfortably prompts our thoughts toward the realization of our mortality. The older we get the more sobering this reality becomes as we see our loved ones and friends become "mementos" to this truth that we are like "mist that appears for a little time then vanishes" (Jam. 4:14). The invincibility we sense in our younger years only accentuates the pretentious falsehood in which we live life as if we are convinced that we are immortal and do not need God. Being "dust to dust" is a sobering reminder indeed.

And, that is the point. That it might be impossible to start a fire from ash, but nothing is impossible for God! That when we recognize just how much we need God, and that we are not invincible, we recognize that only God can burn a heart with fire from the dust of ones sins. Only God can create life from the ashes of mortality. So, we begin a journey from Ashes to Fire from the deadness of our sins to a life that is set on fire by God.

Today is the day we relinquish who we have been

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Camp Fundraiser

The kids had fun putting all the subs together for their camp fundraiser! They wish to thank each and every one of you for your purchases and donations!! **THANK YOU!**



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for what God can do and for what we can become through Him. A reminder that there is no sin big enough, no darkness so great, no abyss so deep, no grave so dusty and no bone so dry that God cannot pursue us with His love to bring us back to life.



Lenten & Soup Service Schedule

- March 3 Emmanuel Mennonite
- March 10 Crossroads Church
- March 17 United Methodist Church
- March 24 Our Lady of Guadalupe / St. Patrick's Parish
- March 31 First Presbyterian Church
- April 7 Here!

**Service begins at 5:45pm with the Soup Supper starting at 6:30pm.



Isaiah Peralta and Crispin Encinias being baptized on February 26th. What a wonderful blessing!



Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Women's Ministries

The knitting and crocheting group is still meeting on the second Friday of each month to make prayer shawls and other gifts for Missions. This month's meeting is on Friday, March 10th from 1:00 - 2:30pm at Carol Eveatt's home.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol at 384-8458.

Associated Charities

Thank you to all who donated food items for Associated Charities and for blessing others in our community!

Children's Camp Fundraiser

The next camp fundraiser is on Sunday, March 5th. Plan to take a night off and have dinner at Wendy's! Our kids will be there to serve you and they will receive 10% of each sale to help with their camp expenses. Bring the Wendy's bulletin insert with you! Thank you for supporting our kids!

NMI NEWS

We are starting our annual Alabaster Mission Fund promotion. Alabaster offerings provide brick and mortar resources for Nazarene missionaries and churches. Basically this fund builds churches, houses, and schools etc. for Nazarene missions. You will have the opportunity to pick up an alabaster box or bag at the information center in the church foyer. Place coins, bills, or anything that God is calling you to give in these containers. Encourage your children to help give to this worthy fund. We will be collecting the alabaster boxes during the next month. If you have been collecting coins all year, we thank you for such a blessing! Thank you for considering doing this as you are blessing many around the world.

Youth Group

Every Sunday evening, there is youth group at 6pm at the church. Come and join Pastor Isaac for a devotion, snacks, and games.

College Age Small Group

The College Age Small Group meets every Thursday at 5:30pm at Pastor Isaac's house. Come and join the fun!

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11th! Otherwise, you'll miss the best Sunday School Class of the entire year!! ☺



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Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

Happy Birthday

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|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Dottie Bryan | 14 | Debbie McLain |
| | Sudi Petersen | 17 | Dyson Oquist |
| | Bob Malden | 21 | LaRue Hare |
| 2 | Gloria Cahill | 22 | Tobias Kersey |
| | Addison Malden | 28 | Dillon Eveatt |
| 3 | Wilda Carver | 30 | Brynn Morley |
| 4 | Betty Clanton | 31 | Jonathan Gossman |
| 6 | Emalie Cahill | | Thane Sullivan |
| 7 | Marcos Arenas | | Isaac Miller |
| 13 | Seth Havens | | |

