



The Senior Scene



Love people. Know Jesus. Live Transformed.

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Rest for the Journey

"I have had enough, Lord," he prayed. ... then he lay down under the tree and slept... The angel of the Lord came back ... and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 1 Kings 19:4-7

Elijah was an amazing man of God. He had just stood before the prophets of Baal and called down fire from heaven in a great victory for the Lord. Then he prayed and God sent rain to the land after years of drought. Then, in his excitement over these victories, he was enabled to run ahead of King Ahab's chariot "all the way to Jezreel" (18:46) ... a distance of about 32 miles. I'd say that was a good day of ministry!

But then it all became too much for him... his strength was sapped. After all these incredible moments, he crashed... under a juniper tree. He was physically, mentally and spiritually weary—to the point he wanted to die. I have had enough, he said to God.

And what did God do for this bone-weary servant of His? Infuse him with supernatural power? Command him to keep pushing through it? No, He told Elijah to take a nap... a long one. And then, the Lord nudged him awake to eat a meal... followed by another nap. Then he was strengthened to go on with his journey.

Does the journey ever feel like it's too much for you? Many faithful and victorious believers have found themselves in this situation— weary beyond what they can bear... finding themselves laid out "under a juniper tree"... too exhausted to go on... ready to give up. And God is also ready to strengthen us.

Sometimes it is as simple as taking a nap and refreshing ourselves physically. But for the "soul deep" weariness, we have the words of Matthew 11:28—*Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

We live in a world filled with weariness and crises that sap our joy and drain our energy until the tank is nearly empty. Jesus knows we must pass through such a world, and that there will be times when we feel like the journey is too much for us.

We see in His words that He recognizes that we all have a burden to bear in this world. And in the midst of it, He promises rest. His invitation is welcome and

timely. There is nothing better than His "soul deep" rest in our most turbulent times. He carries our burdens. He gives peace to our restless souls. He gives us true rest.

*I will
give you
rest*

More than just a good nap, (although that is also beneficial!) Jesus gives us rest that is enduring and is guaranteed by His unchanging character. Rest that comes from the certainty that even amid trouble, He has everything under His control. We can persevere and even thrive within the strength and restoration only Jesus can provide. He gives us the peace that every heart craves—a peace that goes beyond the absence of burdens; it is the peace of dwelling in His presence and allowing Him to carry those burdens.

Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you (Psalm 116:7). He has indeed been good to us and has given us the gift of resting in His love and care for us. What keeps us from rest? Whatever that may be, look to the Father in times of weariness and know He's got this. We simply give ourselves into His hands.

Are troubles (or even just running the race) wearing you down? Our Savior, who loves us even more than we know, is greater than them all. Accept Jesus' invitation and enter His rest!

Fall Bible Study

The Beatitudes

Thursdays -- September 10 through November 5 at 10AM in the Edinburgh Room.

Jesus' first recorded sermon in the Bible is a blueprint for being happy (blessed) here on earth. It has nothing to do with material acquisition but everything to do with transformation and obedience. Join us as we examine His timeless definition of happiness and His teaching on living distinctly as His followers in a world with values much different from God's.

My Faith Story

Growing up in Erie, I often attended Wayside Presbyterian Church with my dad. Sometimes he gave me a choice: church or canoeing on the lake. Canoeing often won out. I didn't go to church during my college years, except when I was home for the summer and the holidays. After college, I moved to Pittsburgh in the fall of 1973. I worked at a couple of jobs and then attended graduate school. After earning an MBA, I began my professional career. Church was not a part of my life.

I met my wife, Shirley, and her family in 1978. We were married the following year at her church in Forest Hills. Shirley, her sister, and her brother-in-law are strong Christians who have had a positive influence on my life. Her sister and her family live in rural South Carolina, where their church is central to their lives.

Shirley and I moved to our current home in McCandless Twp in 1985. After visiting several churches, we chose Memorial Park Church. Shirley attended new member classes and joined. I did not. Church had not really been a part of my life since I left Erie.

A few years later, we met with the senior pastor of MPC to schedule having our twin daughters, Jayme and Susan, baptized. Since I was not a member, the pastor decided against having their baptism at that time. He suggested that we could get together at another time to talk. I was surprised and sorry. I certainly was not confident to have a conversation about my faith and knowledge with a pastor. It was a wakeup call. I was not very familiar with the Bible. So, I began reading the New Testament, hoping something would happen.

A couple of years later, Doug Pratt became Memorial Park Church's new senior pastor. Various groups were formed to host teas to facilitate Doug meeting members of the church. Shirley and I were invited to one. When I spoke with Doug, I discovered that we both had graduated from Allegheny College in 1973. He noted that Shirley was a member of the church, but I was not. I told Doug that I was "working on it". Later that night, Doug asked me if I would be interested in reading a book with him. I said yes but did not expect any follow-up. Well, Doug called me the next morning, asking if he could stop by with a couple of books to consider! We started off with John Stott's "Basic Christianity". We met at Bob Evans for breakfast every two weeks for

fellowship and to discuss the book. As we finished one book, we agreed on another. I asked many questions. Through Doug, God opened my eyes and my heart to His word. I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior on the steps of Memorial Park Church.

Shirley and I have attended church regularly. We've attended a variety of adult Sunday school classes. We joined a small group (called Koinonia then) and have been with this group for 30+ years. I have been part of men's Bible study groups. I learned so much more about God and His word through studying Scripture and involvement with other Christians.

Looking back, I had needed help. Doug reached out and followed through. We became good friends and continued to read and discuss Christian books together over the next fourteen years with breakfast and coffee. Doug left Memorial Park to become the senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church Bonita Springs, Florida. And we continue to read books and visit still.

I am forever grateful to God for leading me to Shirley, for using other Christians to bring me to Jesus, and continuing to help me grow in my faith.

Jim Crawford



Big News! The Return of the Thursday Lunch

After a long wait, we are pleased to announce the return of the Thursday lunch... renamed as **"Friends, Food, and Fellowship Lunch."**

For the re-launch, the lunch will be a quarterly event. The first one is scheduled for November 12, 2026. A light lunch will be served at noon followed by a ...**Meet the pastor segment.**

Pastor Chris Eatough will be on the hot seat. He will share his story with you and then will field questions from the audience.

We hope you can join us for this special kickoff event. Check your September email for registration information.

That's a Crime?



Laws were created to protect us from harm and to maintain order in society. Over the years many laws that were put on the books in various states make us wonder if they truly helped maintain order! Some of these laws are still on the books in these states! For those of you who are traveling this summer, check out these obscure laws! 🤔

Alabama: It's illegal to wear a fake moustache that causes laughter in church.



Alaska: it's illegal to push a moose out of a moving airplane.



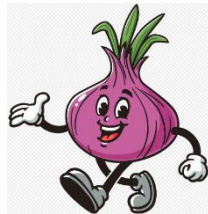
Arizona: It's illegal for a donkey to sleep in your bathtub after 7PM.

Arkansas: it's illegal to sound your horn at any place where cold drinks or sandwiches are served after 9PM.

California: It is illegal to eat a frog if it died during a frog-jumping competition.

Also in California: It's against the law to eat an orange while taking a bath.

Connecticut: Pickles must bounce to be considered safe for human consumption.



Also in Connecticut: It is illegal to eat raw onions while walking down the street.

Florida: An unmarried woman who parachutes on Sundays can be fined or jailed.

Also in Florida: It is illegal to sing in your swimsuit.

Also in Florida: It is illegal to eat cottage cheese on Sundays.

Georgia: It is illegal to eat fried chicken by any other means than with your hands.



Also in Georgia: It is illegal to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole or streetlamp.

Hawaii: It is illegal to put coins in your ears.

Illinois: It is illegal to take a nap in a cheese factory.

Kansas: It is illegal to serve ice cream on cherry pie.

Also in Kansas: It is illegal to throw knives at men wearing striped suits.



Kentucky: It is illegal (not to mention messy) to carry an ice cream cone in your back pocket.

Louisiana: Mourners at a wake may not eat more than three sandwiches.

Massachusetts: Gorillas are not allowed to sit in the backseat of a car. (Who's going to tell him he can't!)

Maine: It is illegal to bite your landlord.



Michigan: It is illegal to tie a crocodile or alligator to a fire hydrant.

Nevada: It's illegal to lie down on the sidewalk.

Ohio: It's illegal to fish for whales on Sunday. (If you can find a whale in Ohio from Monday through Saturday, have at it!)



Ohio: It's against the law for stores to sell cornflakes on Sundays.

Ohio and Oklahoma: It is illegal to make faces at a dog.

Texas: There's an onion curfew for young women. Under no circumstances are they allowed to have any raw onions after 6PM.

And in our own state of Pennsylvania: It is illegal to catch a fish with your mouth.



Ice Cream Flavors- The leftover letters reveal this month's Scripture

M	N	V	D	B	C	H	U	N	K	Y	M	O	N	K	E	Y	E	S	L
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S	I	I	T	N	H	R	T	R	N	D	T	T	H	E	E	E	O	T	Y
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B	E	T	S	E	L	K	C	I	R	B	R	E	T	T	U	B	T	E	K
C	O	O	K	I	E	D	O	U	G	H	G	O	F	T	Y	N	E	E	P
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E	A	E	N	A	C	Y	D	N	A	C	G	R	E	L	P	A	M	T	X
R	O	C	K	Y	R	O	A	D	P	R	E	T	Z	E	L	I	M	E	X

ALMOND FUDGE

BANANA SPLIT

BIRTHDAY CAKE

BLACK RASPBERRY

BUBBLEGUM

BUTTER BRICKLE

BUTTER PECAN

CANDY CANE

CARAMEL MACCHIATO

CHEESECAKE

CHERRY

CHOCOLATE

CHUNKY MONKEY



COFFEE

COOKIE DOUGH

COOKIES AND CREAM

COTTON CANDY

CREAMSICLE

DULCE DE LECHE

EGGNOG

FUDGE SWIRL

GRAPE

LEMON

LIME

MANGO

MAPLE



MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP

MOCHA

MOOSE TRACKS

NEAPOLITAN

ORANGE SHERBET

PEACH

PEANUT

PEANUT BUTTER CUP

PEPPERMINT

PISTACHIO

PRALINES AND CREAM

PRETZEL

PUMPKIN PIE



RED VELVET CAKE

ROCKY ROAD

RUM RAISIN

SALTED CARAMEL

SMORES

SNICKERS

SORBET

SPUMONI

STRAWBERRY

TIN ROOF SUNDAE

TOFFEE

TURTLE

VANILLA