

Fire Power (Pat's Pondering from the Pew)

It has been 50 days, seems like a long 50 days of waiting; waiting for Jesus to return and so the disciples waited and who shows up?

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, so goes a song sung in many Christian Sunday Schools across the nation. In my more recent pondering, I thought of **Pentecost** fast approaching this **May 15, 2016** along with the fire power that the Holy Spirit brings in our lives.



That small spark will turn into a glow that becomes a small fire that will turn into a raging inferno if the conditions are right and fuel is at hand.

Fire is seductive and mesmerizing and calls many to warm up to its glowing white hot embers at its center. This fiery passion of sharing the good news of salvation with others often comes with a Holy Spirit baptism such as came on the 120 in the upper room a few thousand years ago. By saying yes to the Fire Power of God's Holy Spirit, we often find ourselves being refined and purified in surprising ways and more often than not, is rather painful process for most of us.

It has been said that God will start leading us up to the next rung of our spiritual ladder by starting the fire process, bringing us down to the depths of despair that we might rise to something higher. I think of gold being refined and purified by fire going through many burnings to get all the impurities out.

My ponderings take a road back in time as I recall the huge blast furnaces at Wheeling Pittsburg Steel, in my home town that manufactured steel and aluminum. It took many train loads of coal to get the furnaces up to a temperature and the heat required for production. Then I thought of Imperial Glass Company in the neighboring community and their furnaces that turned sand into fine glass products and allowed the glassblowers to produce beautiful, delicate and intricate products.



Constructive types of fire are noted throughout scripture as well. We find the fire in the bush that drew Moses to the mountain top. The pillar of fire that led the Hebrew children across the desert and protected them from the Egyptians, then we learn of the raging fire in the furnace that a king used to try to kill Daniel and his friends. In each fire God is present and working.

About 400 A. D., A story was told about Abba Lot who went to see Abba Joseph and said to him, "Abba, as far as I can, I say my little office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace and as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?" Then the old man stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he said to him, "If you will, you can become all fire." And Abba Joseph said to Abba Lot, "you cannot be a monk unless you become like a consuming fire."



My ponderings took another side trip as it wandered to smaller and less intense fires. I thought of the fire that rages inside many people and burns off the chaff or undesirable things that does not honor the Lord or would be acceptable in eternity with Christ. Although fire can be destructive as well, humanity prefers to focus on the constructive aspect of fire.

It is the fire of the Holy Spirit on the heads of the 120 that is what Pentecost is all about. The people were so excited and elated that they spoke in other tongues and began to rejoice and praise God, then began the work of taking the truth of the gospel of salvation to all the world. Those 120 experienced first hand the baptism of the Holy Spirit in very profound ways.

Yes, the Holy Spirit's fire can be a fiery ordeal when we have made poor choices in our lives that does not honor the Lord or it can be a most loving method of purifying us on this side of life. But when all is said and done, it is by the power and fire of passion that helps us declare Christ to the world around us. Did you say yes to God's invitation to be baptized by the Holy Spirit?

Easter Brunch and Fellowship Time



Dorothy Bettencourt & mom Louise Bromley



Dave Dunn & 2 of his grandkids



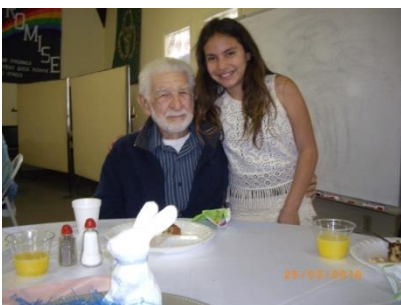
One of our guests In training to guide—



Charlene Yoder & grand daughter



Lookin for those elusive eggs



Walt Willcut & great granddaughter



There is always room at the table!



The Bear Bunny was here!!!

The chief cooks and bottle washers rock!!!!



Easter Joy and filled baskets delight.



Mothers Day May 8

Celebrate those ladies in your life who were instrumental in shaping who you are with a word of wisdom for your generation. Then support the lady in your life now who will shape the future generations of children.



Faithgirlz will focus on Mother's Day and celebrating the women who have mothered us - a mom, a grandma, a foster mom, a teacher, a neighbor or aunt, etc. They meet the 2nd Fri of every month at 530pm for a light supper, fellowship and exploring their faith. Contact Shelia Prax through office (462-7795) if you have a young lady in your life that would like to join in this active vibrant group.

WALK/ RUN FOR CHARITY (LOVE)

May 14 is an annual community wide 'run/walk that fundraises for non- profits of the runner/walkers choice. This year we have 2 Grace entries: Gladys Telshow running/walking on behalf of Mental Health Alliance and Leroy Glass walking or running on behalf of Mayacama Industries.

Donations are readily accepted, see Gladys or Leroy as to who to make out your check.

Grace's Childrens'Sunday School Penny Ministry.



Those pennies add up fast that you help with, by placing them in the offering plate. They will be donated to our local law enforcement K-9 units.during VBS time.

FOR THOSE THAT HUNGER

Our grocery cart is looking mighty bare lately. Your non perishable gift goes to the Ukiah Food Bank to help feed those whose wallets will not stretch enough to feed the family.



Pentecost Sunday is May 15

Are you filled with Holy Spirit fire (passion)?

Reports

Our soup supper Lenten gift of \$583.00 will go to Plowshares, Ukiah's community soup kitchen. Meals are served at the lunch hour and dinner hour, Monday thru Fri.

The annual Easter Brunch had free will offerings of approximately \$385.00 that is earmarked for Vacation Bible School.

Many thanks to the people of Grace for their gifts. You are phenomenal !!!

Regardless of where you stand on current issues or candidates, it is time to voice that by VOTING on June 7—Your vote will matter!



UPDATES FOR OFFICE

If you are having difficulty reaching the office via phone, please bear with us as we are having dropped calls and Lily is in contact with AT&T regarding this issue to get it corrected.

Many thanks to Hilde Mueller for sending out cards of celebration for birthdays and anniversary's to members. Hilde is using one of her spiritual gifts in this ministry to others.

Kudo's to Roger Coate for presiding at both services of worship on Apr 10. due to Pr Martha's absence.

Our prayers to Gwen Rones on her emergency surgery right after Easter. Please keep her and family in prayer for a speedy recovery. .

URGENT!!

Looking for Information from members who might have housing rentals for 2 or 3 bedroom homes in Ukiah area and are willing to accept Section 8 vouchers. Please give Pat Boesel a call.

Share the good news of Jesus Christ

Jerry Hadley passes to us, her easy to learn table grace, that she and Dennis taught their children as well as the grandchildren.

Father we thank you for love
We thank you for food
We thank you for work
We thank you for understanding
Keep our hearts humble, please
That we may never forget
Where all this comes from

We thank you then O Father
For all things bright and good
The seed time and the harvest
Our life, our health, our food

We thank you Father for the love that has kept us together during another day and for granting us the full measure of happiness that come from the knowledge that you are with us.



Welcoming a new addition to the Johns family !

**Braxton John Silver
born 9/4/16**

**Congratulations to mom, Elizabeth
and dad and proud grandparents.
What a blessing!!!!**

Your council at Work in April



Treasurer ----giving up slightly-
Call team--- suggested to GLC call team that we share priest with Holy Trinity Episcopal, whose priest is retiring; wants permission to place ad in The Lutheran magazine for pastor; wants permission to seek out a replacement on call team (Jeanne Y withdrew)
Synod convention--- Lynn Edwards and Paul Stum will represent our congregation in Reno in June
AV System--- still in process of upgrading and correcting issues
VBS--- still being re-searched
Employee's contract--- Reviewed contracts
One worship service ----Joanne Lanz will facilitate going to one service for 3 months in summer
Interim pastor----Martha now has mentor to assist her in various interim ministry issues
Open Communion ---discussion held