

April 19, 2017



NCFA CONNE^XION!

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Rev. Jesus Juan Gonzalez
"Jesse"*



Greetings/Saludos, New Covenant Fellowship of Austin!



The Reverend Doctor Rick Young, CEO of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, based in Irving, Texas, is our guest preacher for Sunday, April 23rd. Afterwards, Rick will make a special presentation for Elders and Deacons about how the Texas Presbyterian Foundation helps organizations and individuals manage Christian generosity and philanthropy.

Originally founded in the 1920's as an agency of the Synod of Texas Presbyterian Church U.S., TPF has given people of vision and generosity the source to express their faith through charitable, philanthropic and planned giving. In its almost 100 years in operation, TPF has provided institutions, organizations and individuals the disciplines of faith with trusted, modern business practices and standards.

NCFA's Session is committed in 2017 to develop and put in place a stewardship strategy to meet the financial requirements to advance the ministry's vision of our founding pastor James Lee. Please join us both in prayer and in action to achieve our evangelistic mission for the glory of God.

***Peace/Paz/Shalom:
Pastor Jesse***

April 19, 2017



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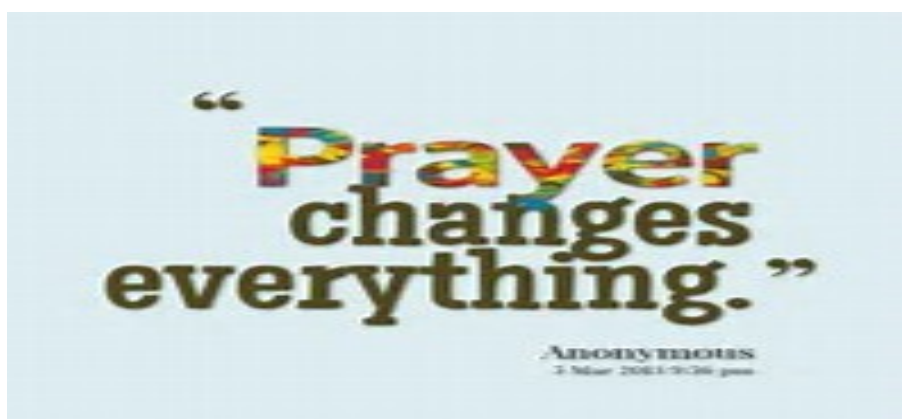
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We do not know what the future holds; but, we know who holds the future!

- ⇒ Praise for a successful heart surgery for Jeff and Carol's granddaughter Arden. Lift up a rapid recovery of health for Arden and peace for her concerned family.
- ⇒ Lift up compassion, sanity and good sense for the world's political leaders as they consider decisions they make concerning their people.
- ⇒ Praise for good family time for Doris and Vernon. Lift up Doris's co-worker and family as they try to embrace each additional day with her husband. Lift up all people who are struggling against cancer.
- ⇒ Praise for Pastor Jesse's 60th Birthday. Praise that Pastor Jesse has been with NCF six months already. Lift up the work ahead as we plan for the future. Praise for a summer internship for his son Obed at the Arkansas Museum of Art. He is majoring in education with a minor in art. He will begin his student teaching semester this fall.
- ⇒ Praise for friendly neighbors surrounding Ashley and Scott. Lift them up as they represent Christ to their unbelieving friends. Praise for the bitter sweet news that Ashley's Pastor Step-father wore one of Pastor Lee's stoles to conduct Easter services. Thank God for wonderful memories of Pastor Lee.
- ⇒ Lift up George H's great-nephew who has asked his Uncle George to baptize him now that he has straightened out his life and found new meaning in Christ. He hopes to be baptized at NCF where he will be greeted with compassion, acceptance, and encouragement.



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- ⇒ Praise for the beauty around us and celebrations of life. Lift up those who struggle against things that interfere with that celebration.
- ⇒ Thoughts about the Lord's Vineyard. We can't see all the vastness of the vineyard; nor, can we know all the workers in the vineyard. We can't know their jobs or the length of time of their service. But, at some point the Lord approaches each worker and says, "You have worked hard enough. It's time to come to your rest." And, the Lord takes them home to be with him. It is the greatest of all rewards or recompense that can be given to a worker. As fellow workers we can look forward to that time when the Lord approaches each of us and says. "You've done enough. Come to rest in me."
- ⇒ Praise God! Angela had chest pain, went through medical tests, and was given medicine that is helping. Praise the Lord! She is well and still with us!
- ⇒ Praise for all the worshippers present for Easter service.
- ⇒ Praise for Vernon's sister's birthday. Praise for the Joy and Peace Vernon's twin sister is enjoying now since she joined the Church Triumphant yesterday. Lift up Vernon and family as they adjust to her absence from this life.
- ⇒ Lift up all people who are going through life's challenges that they will find peace, comfort, and joy in the Lord.



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**N
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SUNDAY MORNINGS

NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 23rd

Rev. Dr. Rick Young



NCFA SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:15am

**We would love to have you and your family come
share in the CELEBRATION OF
THE GOOD NEWS!**

**We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall
of Genesis Presbyterian Church on the Wilshire Campus
starting at 10:15 a.m.**

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin PC(U.S.A.) is a
racially diverse community informed by the Bible,
empowered by the Holy Spirit, and motivated to share God's love
with all. In response to God's love, we are called to equip disciples
to faithfully serve, to encourage seekers to joyfully commit, and to
implore all to
worship our Lord, as we love our neighbors,
grow in grace, and live by faith.**

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

Real Church...
Real People...
Real Simple...

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Being Real, Relevant, and Racially Diverse!

“The New Creation Week”

John 20:1-18

Pastor Jesse Gonzalez

April 15, 2017

**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
Easter Sunday**

INTRODUCTION:



Thanks be to God for allowing us to live through the 2017 Holy/Passion Week! Let us for a moment reflect on the fact of the number of Easter Sundays which have passed in our lifetime. What each Passion Week has meant and what everyone has learned. We all cherish celebrating the birth of baby Jesus on Christmas, mostly because of memorable Church and family time. But in the Gospel's logic the end became more significant than the beginning. So, *Resurrection Sunday* is the most important Christian celebration.

In this past week of the 2017 Lenten Devotional ***Meeting Jesus***, we have read this imagery of *first-person* testimony of ***Philip, Mary*** the sister of Lazarus, ***Judas Iscariot, Malchus*** the Centurion at the Crucifixion, and ***Joseph of Arimathea***; about how they would have explained meeting Jesus. And today it's ***Mary Magdalene's*** turn to explain how she remembers Jesus' resurrection.

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Easter Sunday



TEXT

Verse 17b: But go to my *brothers* ([adelphous](#)) and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.

ἀδελφός a fellow-believer, united to another by the bond of affection; so most frequently of Christians, constituting as it were but a single family: Matthew 23:8; John 21:23; Acts 6:3 (Lachmann omits); Galatians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Philippians 1:14, etc.; in courteous address, Romans 1:13; Romans 7:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 John 2:7 Rec., and often elsewhere; yet in the phraseology of John it has reference to the new life unto which men are begotten again by the efficiency of a common father, even God: 1 John 2:9ff; ; etc., cf. 1 John 5:1.

What an interesting relationship between the size of these *mites* and *quadrans* and the *mustard seed*. What small things can do with faith!

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***New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
Easter Sunday***

LESSON:

The 2017 Lenten Devotional describes *Mary Magdalene's* impression of Jesus' resurrection: ***Jesus is alive! My Lord lives!***

With mourning I began my day. At dawn, the other women and I trudged out to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body and to say our goodbyes. Yet the stone and his body were gone. We didn't know who had taken him; neither did his disciples. My mourning turned into despair. I could only stand outside his tomb and weep. The one whose death I mourned came to me and comforted me, even when I didn't recognize him. At the sound of my name, though, everything became clear. In front of me, alive and well, stood the one who had bowed his head just two days before. At the sound of my name, mourning turned into dancing. Death itself couldn't conquer my master! I ran back to Jerusalem and told the disciples the good news. Our Messiah is alive! My spirit rejoices in God, my savior!

In light of recent conversations about the role of women in the Catholic Church, it is interesting that Pope Benedict XVI had this to say about Mary in a 2007 address: St. Thomas Aquinas reserved the special title, “Apostle of the Apostles” (*apostolorum apostola*), dedicating to [Mary Magdalene] this beautiful comment: ‘Just as a woman had announced the words of death to the first man, so also a woman was the first to announce to the Apostles the words of life’ (*Super Ioannem*, ed. Cai, § 2519).

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CONCLUSION

Creation Day 1 (Genesis 1:1-5)

God created the heavens and the earth.

Monday of Authority

Creation Day 2 (Genesis 1:6-8)

God creates the sky.

Tuesday of Controversy

Creation Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13)

God creates dry land. Continents and islands are above the water. The large bodies of water are named "seas" and the ground is named "land." God starts declaring that all this is good.

Wednesday of Retreat

God creates all plant life both large and small. He creates this life to be self-sustaining; plants have the ability to reproduce. The plants were created in great diversity (many "kinds"). The earth was green and teeming with plant life. God declares that this work is also good. This creative work takes one day.

Creation Day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19)

God creates all the stars and heavenly bodies.

Thursday of Communion / The New Covenant

Creation Day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23)

God creates all life that lives in the water. Any life of any kind that lives in the water is made at this point. God also makes all the birds.

Friday of Crucifixion

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Easter Sunday**

Saturday of Glory

When God was creating man, He took counsel with Himself, "God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26). This is not an explicit revelation of the Trinity but is part of the foundation for such, as God reveals an "us" within the Godhead. God makes man, and man is made in the image of God (men and women both bear this image) and is special above all other creatures. To emphasize this, God places man in authority over the earth and over all the other creatures. God blesses man and commands him to reproduce, fill the earth and subdue it (bring it under the rightful stewardship of man as authorized by God). God announces that man and all other creatures are to eat plants alone. God will not rescind this dietary restriction until Genesis 9:3-4.

God's creative work is complete at the end of the sixth day. The entire universe in all its beauty and perfection was fully formed in six literal, consecutive, 24-hour days. At the completion of His creation, God announces that it is very good.

Creation Day 7 (Genesis 2:1-3)

God rests. This in no way indicates He was weary from His creative efforts, but denotes that the creation is complete. Further, God is establishing a pattern of one day in seven to rest. The keeping of this day will eventually be a distinguishing trait of God's chosen people (Exodus 20:8-11).

Resurrection



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**New Covenant Fellowship of Austin
Easter Sunday**

I remind you again about the three questions these daily Lenten Devotionals make me to reflect on:

- 1. How did I meet Jesus?**
- 2. How well do I know Jesus?**
- 3. What and how much do I want to give up for Jesus?**



Today's devotional summary: ***Jesus, in live through us today and forever.***

Amen.

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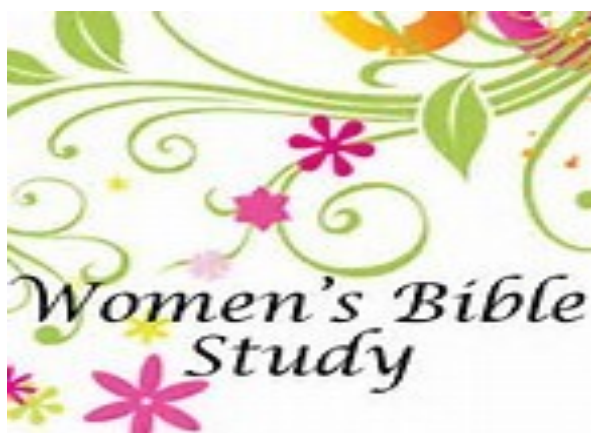


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Jane's Circle — Bible Study



The Jane Circle, named after Jane Mack, meets this Saturday at 10am in the kitchen.



You're Invited!

Spring Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Wednesday May 10, 2017

10:30am

\$10 cost for lunch.

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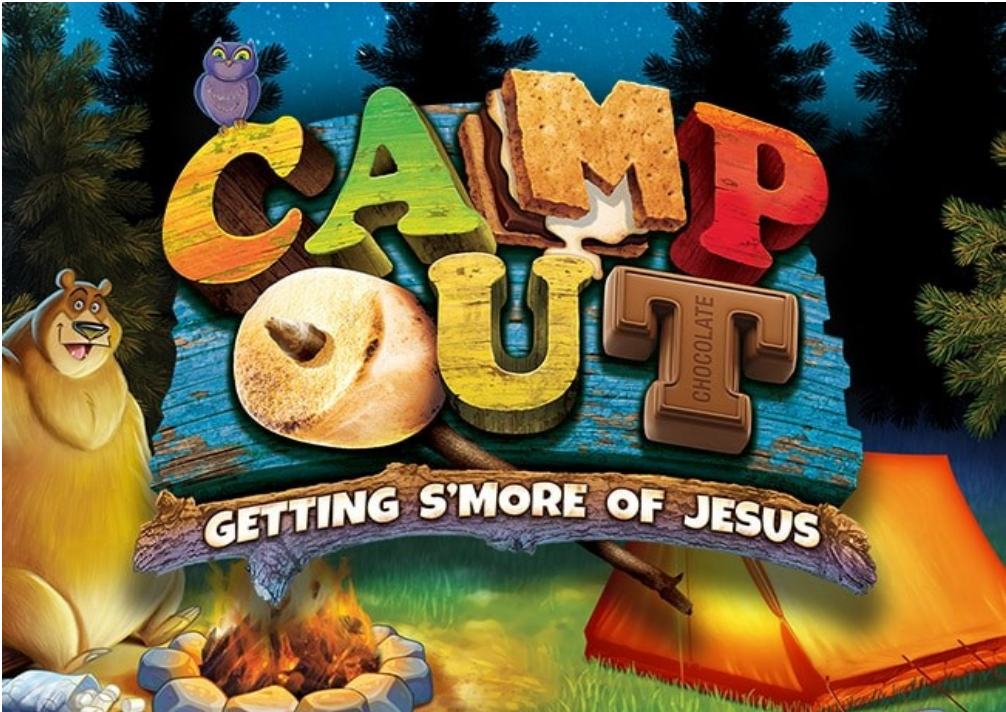
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SAVE THE DATE!!

JUNE 16-18

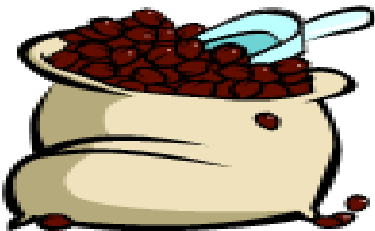
VBS



Café Justo

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Orders will be arranged through NCFA's Evangelism Committee. Please see Caly Fernández to place an order. Coffee is available in 1 and 5 pound bags. The cost of a 1 pound bag is \$10.00 and a 5 pound bag is \$ 40.00. Dark roast, medium roast and decaf are available in ground or whole beans. Coffee will be delivered biweekly to NCFA.



Contact Caly to make your purchase today!

(512)228-4712

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends, we need your help. We are our best when we serve together. Please consider ways you can help our ministry leaders and ministries.

**Coming together is a
beginning;
keeping together is
progress;
working together is
success.**

Henry Ford



FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE TO ALL



The New Covenant Fellowship Deacons are now providing a free to all food pantry each Sunday. This is to help anyone who needs a little help in the obtaining of groceries. The table at the back of the church will have canned goods and other non-perishable food each Sunday. If you

or anyone you know needs some help with groceries, please feel free to partake of the items available.

If you are able to donate food items to this table, please feel free to do so and bless you for your contribution. Paper bags with handles are also needed and if you have extra ones of these, please put them on this new food table.



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Session Members

***Rev. Jesus (Jesse) Gonzalez**
Interim Moderator

***Elder Nikkie Shubitz**
Clerk of Session

***Elder Oliver Smith**
Administration & Personnel

*** Elder Zaira Amado**
Buildings & Grounds

***Elder Randy Mojica**
Children and Youth

***Elder George Washington IV**
Discipleship & Men's/Women's Ministry

***Elder Mary Jo Mojica**
Finance & Stewardship

***Elder Robert Booth**
Congregational Life/
Lay Ministry

***Elder Kimberly Hall**
Missions/Evangelism

***Elder Viola Lee**
Worship & Membership

Deacons

Ulysses Cox
Rey Mojica
Ashley Phillips
Scott Phillips
Cathy Trifiro
Roxann Vallejo

APRIL

1st Matthew Castilleja
2nd Justin Wallace
4th Gemma Munoz
6th Jhaliah J'nae Edwards
Alida Tallman
11th Kayla Zajicek
12th Pastor Jesse Gonzalez
13th Abigail Iris Longino
15th J.T. Longino
16th Kofi Vida-Torku
18th Aquanetta Hicks
22nd Wonho Shin
24th Lucy Oglesby
25th Angel Mojica
Lydia Marion
28th Saul Cortez

April

22nd 10:00am The Jane Circle Bible Study
will meet in the Kitchen

23rd **2nd Sunday of Easter**
9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.

Rev. Dr. Rick Young, preaching
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1); Grades 1-5 (Rm. 7); and Junior/
Senior High (Pastor's Office)
12:30pm Texas Presbyterian
Foundation Presentation

25th 6:30pm Men's Bible Study-Dinner
7:00pm Bible Study

26th 6:30pm Fellowship Dinner
7:00pm First Wednesday Ministry
Meetings

30th **3rd Sunday of Easter**
Family- Friendly Sunday
Youth Lead Worship

9-10am Adult Sunday School
9:45am Praise Team Rehearsal
10:15am Worship at Wilshire Blvd.

Baptism: Bennett Michael Longino
Pastor Jesse Gonzalez, preaching
Sunday School—Nursery & Ages 3-5
(Rm. 1)