

Whether this is your first time or your next time, whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.

Pastor On Call: If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg’s Pastor on call.

Baptism Celebration: is **TODAY!**

Media Team: Looking for a place to serve? What about media? Talk to Tim Wilkerson tim@martinsburgchurch.org for more info.

Ripple Reports: How is God at work in your community group, our church, and your life in general? Let us know with this hashtag: #ripplereport

OP:THX - Pledged = 68 turkeys, Goal = 255 turkeys! - Join us on November 17th from 7:45 to 8:15am at the Regal Cinema’s parking lot.

Women’s Gathering: November 9-10. Theme: Woman to Woman Gospel-Centered Relationships. Location: Harvest Community Church (74 Dupont Road, Martinsburg WV 25404). Sign up in the lobby today!

Missionary Toolbox:

The great reformer Martin Luther rightly said that, as sinners, we are prone to pursue a relationship with God in one of two ways. The first is religion/spirituality and the second is the gospel. The two are antithetical in every way.

Religion is about me. The Gospel is about Jesus. Religion says that if we obey God He will love us. The gospel says that it is because God has loved us through Jesus that we can obey. Religion says that the world is filled with good people and bad people. The gospel says that the world is filled with bad people who are either repentant or unrepentant. Religion says that you should trust in what you do as a good moral person. The gospel says that you should trust in the perfectly sinless life of Jesus because He alone is the only good and truly moral person who will ever live. The goal of religion is to get from God such things as health, wealth, insight, power, and control. The goal of the gospel is not the gifts God gives, but rather God as the gift given to us by grace. Religion is about what I have to do. The gospel is about what I get to do. Religion sees hardship in life as punishment from God. The gospel sees hardship in life as sanctifying affliction that reminds us of Jesus’ sufferings and is used by God in love to make us more like Jesus. Religion leads to an uncertainty about my standing before God because I never know if I have done enough to please God. The gospel leads to a certainty about my standing before God because of the finished work of Jesus on my behalf on the cross. Religion ends in either pride (because I think I am better than other people) or despair (because I continually fall short of God’s commands). The gospel ends in humble and confident joy because of the power of Jesus at work for me, in me, through me, and sometimes in spite of me.

Community Group Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday’s message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. How does Peter explain the events of Pentecost to the people who witnessed it? Why was it necessary to explain it in light of Old Testament scripture?
3. According to Acts 2:22-28, why was Jesus crucified? Who was responsible according to Peter?
4. How did the people respond to Peter’s preaching (v.37)? What does it mean to be “cut to the heart”?
5. Read the following scriptures: Mark 1:14-15; Acts 3:18-21; 5:30-32; 8:22; 11:18; 20:18-21; 26:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:24-26. What does the Bible say about “repentance”? According to Peter’s answer (v.38) to the people, what will their repentance result in?
6. What were Peter’s listeners trusting in previously for their salvation? Discuss with one another the things that we rely upon in our own culture for salvation. Discuss the “equation”: Jesus + Nothing = Everything. What does this mean both for your salvation and for your daily life?

Living on Mission

1. How is the gospel currently speaking to your old areas of trust? In other words Jesus + “what else” have you been trusting in?
2. What do you believe it means to say “Jesus is both Lord and Christ”? Examine yourself in light of Peter’s message: Are you most certainly a child of God?
3. How has the word of God recently “cut you to the heart”? Have you repented and are you currently living in obedience to God’s word to you?
4. What is your message concerning Jesus Christ? Who are you saying Jesus is? Who are you talking to about Jesus and what are they saying about who He is?

This Week’s Reading:

Monday: Joel 2:28-32

Tuesday: Psalm 16; Psalm 110:1

Wednesday: Mark 1:14-15

Thursday: Acts 3:18-21; 5:30-32 8:22

Friday: Acts 11:18; 20:18-21; 26:19-20

Saturday: 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Ripple Report:

This week’s Ripple Report comes from Josh Powell, who went out on a limb to be a witness for Jesus at work. He shared this with us over Twitter this week: “Got to bless a co-worker with an ESV Daily Bible and a Jesus Storybook Bible. Confident that God’s Word won’t return void.” This is one way that God is at work in Josh’s life, and hopefully in the lives of many other people in our church! Josh, like others, has seen that living out the Gospel doesn’t just happen on Sunday mornings and at community group. God wants us to see our jobs, our hobbies, and the errands we run throughout the week as an opportunity to share Jesus with people. Our whole lives are mission fields! Let’s learn from Josh’s example as a church and always be looking for ways to spread the Gospel with people that we encounter in our day-to-day lives, knowing that God’s promised that His Word will never return void (Isaiah 55:11).



How is God working? Let us know by tagging your tweets with #ripplereport or sending them to ripple@martinsburgchurch.org!