

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.'" Isaiah 43:2

Probably one of our least favorite words is "through" or "patience", although it may be one of God's favorites. He's an expert with the "through". It's always through the "through" that He makes something new. It's through the "throughs" that we are shaped to be who He created us to be. See, it's not if you walk through... BUT **when** you walk through. Everything that was ever created must go through a process to become.

Sometimes it may feel like we are in an extrusion machine...being squeezed to death and heated through fire, BUT God says, I pass you through, to make you ready, to make you new, to make you, you! In every passing through...you are not stuck in the middle...ask God what does He want to be for you right now. You may feel like you're stuck in the middle, but just like every story in the Bible, there was a passing through into a greater knowledge, a greater knowing, a new knowing of God. In the middle of the lion's den (a dark, scary place), Daniel finds God as deliverer; in the middle of a whale's belly (dark, stinky, gross), Jonah finds God as rescuer; in the middle of Goliath's shadow (huge giant, dread, overtaking place), David finds God who prepares, equips, and always secures victory; In the middle of a tomb, Lazarus finds Jesus as The resurrection and the life.

See it's in the middle...in the passing through zone that there is something entirely new and fresh that you get to encounter of Jesus. And I want to say to you, that you are not in the middle of nothingness, although it may feel that way. The truth is we ARE passing through where the power of God is revealed and made real.

Connecting People

Sunday Mornings - We are meeting in the sanctuary, 10:00 a.m. We are also still doing the Live Broadcast on Facebook Live.

David's Mighty Men, our Men's Group, meets the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. This month the dates are **Monday, September 13th & September 27th. All men are welcome.**

Prayer Walking - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Meet at the church to begin our Prayer Walking in Tarentum. Come and Join us! If interested, contact Cheryl McGuire at 724-882-9935. **(Call before you go.)**

Health Coaching with Melanie Archer & Emily Lewis, **Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. at Melanie's house, 906 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15215** ****THIS IS ON PAUSE AT THE PRESENT TIME!****

Friendship Dinner, Wednesdays 6 p.m. here at **Abundant Joy Fellowship.** Help is needed and very much appreciated. If you can help out, please contact Mick McArdle, 724-882-5231.

FIRE! Praying in the Spirit for 20 Minutes - ZOOM MEETING - WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. Meeting ID# 716-485-0124 Password - troop134.

Food Pantry Donations - We are still helping folks out with our Food Pantry. Donations may be brought to the office during the week, 411 First Avenue, Tarentum, or you may bring them to the church on Sundays.

Greg Blythe Community Garden - Lauren Ferguson (412-605-8760) is doing this fundraiser with Pura Vida Bracelets. The cost per bracelet is \$10.00. With every bracelet sold, \$7.00 will go towards the Garden.