

A Publication of the Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull, CT. 06611 203-261-5201

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Lessons Learned from Suffering

No one likes to suffer. Suffering comes in all shapes and sizes; physical, relational, mental, emotional, financial, you name it. We all suffer at different times here on earth. However, our all-powerful and all loving God can use any suffering that we go through for good and ultimately for His glory. While none of us want to suffer in any way, as Christians, we can anticipate positive effects that can come with suffering.

In our suffering comes a great appreciation for our blessings. Even when Jeremiah was going through terrible conditions, he was still able to give thanks for God's love. He said in Lamentations 3:22, "Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail." No matter how bad things are, they could always be worse. God has been and continues to be so good to us. We do not always appreciate our blessings until some or all of them are taken away.

In our suffering comes greater strength. James 1:2 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance." The tests of faith that we face every day make us stronger because they teach us to trust in God alone.

In our suffering comes a greater empathy for others. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." If we have survived a difficulty with the help of God, then we can better be equipped to help someone else who might then be going through the same thing.

In our suffering comes humility. If there was anyone who had the right to complain because of suffering, it was Job. In the end, he showed humility in saying, "Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." (Job 42:3) Job knew that God was greater than he. God knows far more about our lives and our suffering than we will ever know.

In our suffering comes a greater longing to be with God. In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Paul says, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." This would be our greatest lesson learned from our suffering. All of us would agree, heaven will be far greater than what we have here on earth. This conclusion is what drives us to take a greater look at the love that God has shown to us when He sent His Son to die on the cross, so that we can fix our eyes "on what is unseen," eternal glory in heaven with our Father. The suffering we face in this life is only temporary, but what we have to look forward to in the next life is real, true, and forever.

~ Ron Saracino

NEWS & NOTES		
July 12th- Young Adults devotional, singing & cookout at the Pancoast's home. 479 Elm St, Monroe	July 20- VBS - a signup sheet is posted for food, crafts, & someone is needed to monitor the bounce house. Also cardboard rolls (paper towel rolls) are needed.	Remember to contribute to the Spooner House food collection, and to our own food pantry, Barnabas Project- if interested in joining contact Mary Lou (475)529-5751

*Pray for **Esther** and **Nana Aggrey**, they are dealing with health issues.

*Pray for **Carol and Joe Ligouri**, both are dealing with health issues.

*Pray for **Mick McCreanor**, his aunt recent\ly passed away, he will be traveling to Belgium for services.

*Pray for Greg Saracino's friend, **Kimberly** who is struggling with multiple health issues.

*Pray for Nadine Keller's general health.

*Pray for Dorthea's daughter, **Catrina**, whose hand was severely burned.

*Pray for **Al Wilson** (Michelle's brother), he has begun chemotherapy.

*Pray for **David D'Elia** who recently had a stroke and is now awaiting heart surgery.

*Pray for the Pancoast's S-I-L's grandmother, **Clydia Birdsall** who recently had a stroke.

*Pray for Zach's coworker's friend, **Anna**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

*Pray for **Cindy Holly** and her son **Christopher** who are going through a very difficult time.

*Pray for **Crissy Flood** (Richard's wife) recently diagnosed with Alzheimer Disease.

*Pray for **Emille Jones** as he seeks further follow up regarding a small brain tumor, he will begin chemo July 3.

*Pray for **Paula Ross** as she continues to deal with effects of Epstein Barre,

*Pray for those dealing with cancer and chemo treatments- Judith Gomez, David Fritzinger, Cohen (Ron's friend), Tom Byer *Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past year. *Pray for families, relatives, friends and people we are reaching out to, that they may turn to the Lord. Special prayers for our church leaders. Prayers for all families caring for their elderly or sick loved ones: Allie Saracino-Cherie, ,Bob and Joanne Discala-Virginia, Greg & Linda, Gina Porto

*Pray for those suffering from long term illnesses: Ted & Toni Bonadio, Kevin Early, NadineKeller,Greg Linda Cerminara,Jeremy Sazone,Flo Repecko, Pat Yaglowski. Meegan and Irene, Sylvia Sandoval, Nuris Gomez, Mildred, Karen O, Angela's mom Connie Scalzo, Anthony Katz., Jasmyn Malagutti,Daniel Ruiz., Zak Pappas Fernandes., Jim Walkup's brother (Sam), Lance Flood,Zach Saracino, Joshua Ruiz, Brody Streety & all children with diabetes.

*Anyone interested in helping with **World Bible School-** contact Ron

*Opportunities to serve: any men willing to participate in worship service in other capacities for the church, please contact Bruce Post. Anyone interested in leading and/or helping with the building or church house maintenance please contact Bruce Pancoast.

Please bring nonperishable food items for the **Spooner House** - a list of all items needed is on back table: Jelly/Jam/Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna, Corned Beef Hash, Canned Ravioli/Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit/Applesauce, Crackers/Snacks, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Ramen, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Baked beans/Pork and Beans, Canned/Dried Beans (i.e. Black, Chick Pea, Cannellini, Kidney, Pinto), Rice/Rice-A-Roni, Soup/Stew/Chili, Instant/Canned Potatoes/Yams. Bring these food items to the building to be delivered to the Spooner House. Please make sure that items do not have expired dates. Thank you

Elders:Bruce Pancoast 203-583-0551

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Deacons: Ray Fernandes 203-502-8871

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Wednesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm via zoom Bible class Sun. 10 am, worship service 11 am Online bible class and worship service go

to our website: trumbullchurchofchrist.org
Week of 6/30/24

Song Leader :Pat Keller Lord's table:Bruce Post Closing Prayer:Kris Eddy Usher:Steve Froehlich Week of 6/23//24-6/29/24

Donations \$2232Expenses:\$3011