



Caroline Shane graduated from 21st Century Cyber School with her High School Diploma. She is a member of Grace and Peace Church and has been attending our youth group for years. Caroline will be attending Gordon College in Boston in the Fall.

Uros Cukic graduated from Coventry Christian School. He is an international student from Serbia. He was part of the soccer and basketball teams at his school. Uki has a full scholarship to attend Barry University in Miami, Florida in the fall.

Timothy Deichert graduated Cum Laude with an Associates of Arts Degree in the Liberal Arts from Montgomery County Community College. He plans to attend Kutztown University in the fall where he will pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

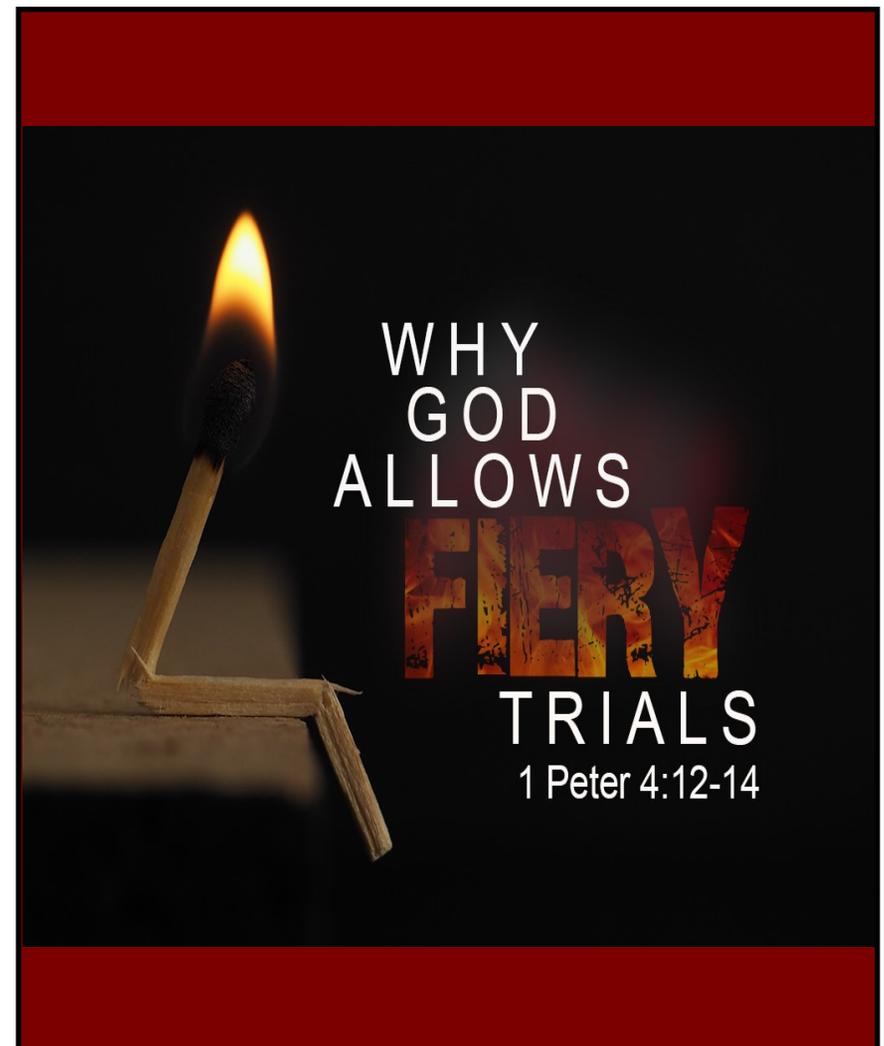
Nicolas Collins graduated Cum Laude with an Associate of Arts Degree in General Education from the South Carolina School of Leadership. He plans on continuing his education at the South Carolina School of Leadership and will be pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Business and Professional Leadership.



June 13, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Fiery Trials: Joy in the Midst of Suffering



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Graduate Recognition

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration: "God is For Us"

. . . Ferguson/Tealy/Reeves/Robinson/Farren/Thompson/Tranter

Prayer of Invocation

Song of Praise

"Great Are You Lord". Ingram/Jordan/Leonard

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal -----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Titus 3:3-5

Song of Renewal

"Faithful God". Zach Neese

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon:

"Fiery Trials: Joy in the Midst of Suffering"

Words of Institution:

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn

"At the Cross". Cash/Armstrong/Tomlin/Redman/Myrin

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"Blessed Be Your Name". Matt and Beth Redman

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 6/6/2021

Attendance: 51

Offering: \$3457.00

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Memorial Gifts

Jennifer Lynn Grubb

April 18, 1975 - August 25, 2016

When Jen passed away in August of 2016, we received memorial gifts given in her memory. The pulpit and the communion trays were purchased with those memorial funds. However, there remained a balance of \$420.71 that sat on our books since August of 2017.

Mary Ann Knarr

October 3, 1934- September 3, 2020.

We have been holding a balance of \$1050.00 of funds that were donated in memory of my mom since her death in September of last year. Memorial funds are not meant to be kept on the books they are meant to honor the life and ministry of the individual for whom they were given. There was a need on the worship team to update the percussion section. In fact, it is the first purchase that we have made in 10 years having to do with the drums that are used every week in worship. The elders thought it was appropriate to use \$1399.00 of the memorial funds to make this purchase. We believe that this is a fitting way to provide something tangible that will aid our worship for years to come. Jen loved to worship, and my mom was a musician herself.

Psalm 81:1-4 (ESV)

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! ² Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. ³ Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day. ⁴ For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

Singing with instruments is not just a good idea its God's plan for his church to worship him.

Pastor Rick

“At the Fiery Trial”

Don't be surprised when God puts you in the furnace to melt you down. Psalm 66:10 (ESV)

“As though something strange were happening to you”

These incidents occur by God's design and reveal whether professing believers' faith is truly regenerate.

2. Rejoice in it.

“But Rejoice insofar.”

A Christian can go through sufferings and not use them well. Your suffering, Peter is saying, can become the occasion of coming to know Christ better, of deepening fellowship with Jesus. And so, insofar as you use your sufferings to press toward Christ and come to know more of Him, then there can be joy.

“also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed”

A sentiment completely unacceptable to those who have no hope of heavenly reward, but affirmed by the Lord when He declared, *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.* (Matt. 5:10–12)

“The Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

Peter claims that these seasons of difficulty are unique times when God's smile and approval are especially on us. The exalted truth in our time of testing is that God's glory is resting on us. He is covering us. He is guarding and guiding us.

Conclusion

The thing that makes heaven, heaven, is face to face with Jesus. It's the sight of His glorified wounds, not just reunion with loved ones, not just the glorification of our bodies, not just release from pain and sorrow.

¹MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). *John MacArthur Sermon Archive*. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

²Piper, J. (2007). *Sermons from John Piper (1990–1999)*. Minneapolis, MN: Desiring God.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 15 6:00 –8:00 P.M. Youth(Grades 6-12) **and Young Adults**(under 30) meet at the Deicherts for supper, Bible Study (groups separated), Volleyball, and ice cream.

Saturday, June 19 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick. After breakfast we will be going to Koreen's house to clean up debris in the back yard and put it into a dumpster. If you can bring tools (shovel, garden rake, saws, etc) and gloves that could come in handy. If you can make it, please let Matt know so he can plan ahead.

Tuesday, June 22 7:00 P.M. Tactics Small Group will meet at the home of Karl and Cindy Yorgey

Sunday, June 27 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Saturday, July 10 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Monday, July 19-24 Youth Group goes to **Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Senior High Youth Week.**

“Gethsemane”

*All those who journey, soon or late,
Must pass within the garden's gate;
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.*

*God pity those who cannot say,
“Not mine but thine,” who only pray,
“Let this cup pass,” and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane.*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Prayer/Praise. June 13, 2021

- Pray for Sara Care who is having a heart catheterization on June 28 and a valve repair on July 28. Pray for wisdom for the doctors, peace for Sara, and successful procedures.
- Praise that Koreen Mace's dad is home from the hospital. Pray for continued strength for Gwen, who is taking care of their dad.
- Pray for Margaret Henz, friend of Donna Jenkins, who is in a hospice center in Virginia. Pray for her daughter Eva as she goes through this time with her mother.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. He is having a series of surgeries for severe burns over most of his body. Pray for his healing and for his family as they walk with him through this time.
- Pray for God's comfort for Lisa Frame's co-worker Kathleen and her husband. They lost their baby recently when Kathleen was 8 months pregnant.
- Pray for Dave Conway, husband of Steve Simon's cousin, Trish. Dave had liver and prostate tests done on Friday, June 11th, to determine if cancer is present. Pray for God's healing and strength for Dave.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams. Christopher checked himself out of the drug rehab. Pray that he is freed from his addiction and that most importantly, he finds that Jesus is his only hope.
- Pray for Deana Deichert's father, who is receiving a hormone treatment for his cancer. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father.
- Pray that a position will open for Jeremiah Mace to be employed at Teen Challenge. Pray for healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, as he continues chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. He is scheduled for another bladder surgery on July 15.
- Pray that God reveals Himself to Koreen's friend, Amanda and her husband, John. Amanda's father is dying. Pray for support from John, peace, and salvation for the father who does not know the Lord.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Pray for healing and salvation.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and is doing better. Diane needs more chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins, and her baby boy, Evan, who was born on May 5th. Pray for improvement in Evan's lungs. Pray for wisdom for the doctors and healing for Evan.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in this area.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

Fiery Trials Joy in the Midst of Suffering

1 Peter 4:12–14 (ESV)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Big Idea

Peter is offering a final word on the reality of suffering in the Christian life, and here he's bringing some of those reflections to a conclusion. Peter says four things are necessary if you are to be triumphant in a fiery trial. Number one, expect it. Number two, rejoice in it. Number three, evaluate its cause and number four, commit yourself to God.¹

Peter claims that these seasons of difficulty are unique times when God's smile and approval are especially on us. That means that in our great suffering on earth there is great support from heaven. You may think now that you will not be able to bear it. But if you are Christ's, you will be able to bear it, because he will come to you and rest upon you. If God is putting you through a season of suffering in connection with his concern for his glory, he has a desire for abundance in your future. Trust God. He knows what is best for you.

1. Expect it

Don't Be Surprised. It's the Plan.

This world is full of tribulation of many kinds, and it strikes for many reasons.

Suffering is not outside the will of God. It is in God's will. This is true even when Satan may be the immediate cause. God is sovereign over all things, including our suffering, and including Satan.²

For what purpose?

“for your testing.”

It is purifying fire. It proves and strengthens real faith, and it consumes “performance faith.”

Suffering is not surprising; it is purposeful.