



## More Than Forgiveness

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, (Philippians 2:12)*

This time of year in the church calendar is called Lent. It is a season to journey with Jesus to the cross, which we know has an actual destiny of the empty tomb. When we focus on the cross we see displayed, as vividly as any other image, the love of God. If you are a follower of Jesus, you also know that what is available as a result of Jesus's death on the cross is the forgiveness of our sins. Remarkably the one without sin dies for us sinners and offers this amazing gift of eternal life.

But actually the offer of Christ is for more than forgiveness. I believe that the cross is as much a new beginning as it is a completion. Much like when a student graduates high school it is both a graduation (completion of schooling) as it is a commencement (the beginning of a new chapter of life). We are not only saved from death and the grave at the cross, but we are saved to a life of godliness and holiness, a transformation into the likeness of Christ.

We praise God for the salvation offered to us at the cross. May our salvation only be the beginning and not an ending, the start of a whole new life.

## ***Winter & Spring Events & Happenings***

**ENCOUNTER** will be held every Tuesday from 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. Bring your Bible and a notebook for this time of prayer and worship.

### **VINEYOUTH UPDATES (GRADES 6-12)**

**For planning purposes, here is our schedule for the next few weeks:**

March 4, 11, 18, 25

9am class as normal

6 pm continuing our series on Lies We Believe

April 1 is Easter Sunday, so no youth group at 9am or 6pm. Enjoy Easter Sunday as a family.

### **EMBRACE PRESENTS: UNDERSTANDING ADDICTION AND RECOVERY**

Saturday, March 10, 9-11am at Hamburg Wesleyan Church. Don't miss free seminar presenting: Kids Escaping Drugs, Recovery & Peer Advocate Coaching and Total Freedom Program, NY.

### **REFRESHED WOMEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST**

Ladies, our next Women's breakfast will be held Saturday, March 17, 9am, in Baldwin Hall. Please join us for food, fellowship and an inspirational message from Melissa Kreuzer.

Circle **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST** on your connection card on Sunday morning and please bring a breakfast dish to share. We will be collecting non-perishable items for the food pantry.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CITY WIDE WORSHIP & INTERCESSION**

Friday, March 23, 6pm-midnight, Vine Sanctuary. Please join us as we declare the beauty of Jesus and the worth of His purposes over our region.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

Friday, March 30, at 7pm. Please join us for our special Good Friday Service.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

Check out our Vine calendar <http://vinewc.org/calendar/> for more upcoming events.