

I wish I had written my article before yesterday's school shooting. If I had, I could talk about how meaningful it was to return to the Holy Land and see the places where Jesus performed miracles, preached beatitudes, charged his disciples, prayed for a cup to be removed, gave his life, and where he conquered the grave. I didn't make the deadline, and so now I write through the hazy lens of senseless tragedy and violence. So much for an uplifting message.

But even as this school shooter tries to demean and degrade the importance of Ash Wednesday (or even Valentine's Day for that matter), let us remember again that Jesus came into a painful world with senseless violence, a world where most people had little regard for those who were suffering, and a world where demons controlled many. In that sense, it is very much the same world it has always been: a world of sin.

And because of that, God came down. In Jesus Christ, God came down to be among us, to live as one of us, yet remain without sin. He taught us to be patient and kind. He taught us to not return evil for evil. He taught us that we should be people of sacrifice, people who will walk the extra mile, people who will turn the other cheek. He taught us to give up our possessions so that others may have food and comfort. He taught us to share. He taught us to spend time getting the log out of our own eye rather than helping our friend with the speck in theirs. He taught us that we don't have to be ruled by our propensity for sinning.

He poured himself out as a libation for many. He did this for a world that needed him.

The world still needs him. Let us repent and believe the good news of the Gospel.

It is good to be home. -Ron

### FPC Events, this Sunday, February 18

"Soup 'N' Bowl Sunday"  
after each service  
starting at 9:00 a.m.  
in Fellowship Hall.

Purchase a handmade pottery soup bowl with homemade soup and bread for \$10! The bowl is yours to keep and all proceeds will go to Interfaith. Hosted by: the Disciple class - Faith Sisters

Music Director  
David Bedenbaugh

*Performs original Art Songs*



at 3:00 p.m.  
in our sanctuary

### NOTES FROM SARAH OVERFELT.... CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Sparks:** We are done with Exodus and moving forward into the next 3 books of the Bible. A few updates on these next coming weeks! There will be NO Parents' Night Out this month! If your child is interested in participating in Palm Sunday please let Sarah know soon. cell [352] 843-4080

**Kaleo:** Kaleo will be having a normal week this Sunday. Meeting in the youth room at 5:30! Please be looking for a flyer in the mail about all the opportunities this summer holds for your student!

### This Week's Daily Bible Readings

Growing with God's Word in Faith					
			Wednesday	February 21	Joshua 2:1-24
Sunday	February 18	Hebrews 11:1-22	Thursday	February 22	Joshua 3:1-17
Monday	February 19	Hebrews 11:23-40	Friday	February 23	Joshua 4:1-5:1
Tuesday	February 20	Joshua 1:1-18	Saturday	February 24	Joshua 6:1-27