



Make No Apologies for Apologetics

The word apologetics is often misunderstood by a lot of folks as it sounds like a fancy form of apologizing. In reality, it is word that was used in the Greco-Roman court system to describe the closely reasoned arguments of the defense to ward off false and erroneous charges from prosecutors. This word has been adopted by Christian theologians who seek to ward off false and erroneous charges against the Christian faith. And this practice has a long and distinguished history as the Apostle Paul himself used the word when he defended the faith before Festus and King Agrippa. He says in Acts 26:2, "I make my defense (apologia)". So too, he uses a form of this word when he informs the Philippians that he is "defending the gospel" in Philippians 1:7. But 1st Peter 3:15 is perhaps the best example where St. Peter reminds us Christians that we when we are asked about our beliefs by non-believers, we should "always be prepared to give a reasonable response (apologia) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." Therefore, it can be argued that we are all called to be apologists as this is not simply the job of the theologian or the pastor, but it is every Christian's task to give a reasoned response as to why we believe what we believe. Indeed, I believe this is, in part, what Jesus meant when he commanded us to "love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind". Therefore, we all ought to study to show ourselves approved as workman of the Word.



Pastor Bob Zoba

This has been the focus of our Men's Breakfast group each Wednesday as we have been working through a series on some of the proofs of God's existence as presented by one of the most respected, Christian apologists today, Daniel Lane Craig. This is a wonderfully crafted video series of eight-minute segments that pack a powerful punch. Unfortunately, many of you cannot attend our breakfast (either because of the time factor or the gender factor;-), but you can access this same series at home by plugging into RightNow Media via the Internet. As a member of Second Union, you have free access to this service. All you have to do is talk to Gustavo Gonzalez and he will give you the user name and password for you to access this great series entitled "Apologetics".

I believe every Christian should be intellectually prepared to talk to people about the doubts that they might put forth. Obviously, some people simply use doubt as a smoke screen to avoid obedience to God's Word, but others are genuinely perplexed by some of these intellectual issues of our time,

**APRIL
2018**

**Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.**

**Adult Sunday School
9:00am**

**Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am**

**Choir Practice
Thursdays 7:17 pm**

Weekly Activities

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group
@ the Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women's Bible Study
Thursday 8am

Prayer Service
Thursday 7pm

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Rev. Robert Zoba
Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez
Youth Pastor

and we should be prepared to walk them through some of the arguments that provide us with a vigorous defense of our faith. This may lead to the happy result of winning others to become followers of Christ.

Of course, let me offer up one caveat that we must all keep in mind as budding apologists and that is something that St. Peter includes as an addendum to the verse I quoted above. Namely, Peter exhorts us to “always be prepared to give a reasonable response (apologia) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” But, he then concludes with these important words: “yet do it with gentleness and respect”. Unfortunately “gentleness and respect” are lacking in the political debates of our day, but too often these elements are missing in our religious debates as well. Indeed, we must always be mindful that we can win the battle and still lose the war, just as we can bludgeon our skeptical friends with air-tight arguments, and thereby win the argument, but in the process lose the person’s soul. So, unless we “speak the truth in love”, and argue with “gentleness and respect”, then we will be like the sounding gong that St. Paul talks about in 1st Cor.inthians 13. The love of God is still the strongest argument we have, so let us never forget that. But let us also remember that out of our love for God, we should be apologists in training so that we can give a reasonable response as to why we believe in God’s Word and why others should believe as well.

Blessings!

Pastor Bob

**Couples’ Ministry Evening:
The Five Love Languages
April 6, 2019 at 7pm**



The next gathering for our Couples’ Ministry is Saturday, April 6th at Pastor Bob and Christie’s home. All are welcome for a great time of fellowship, fun and growth. Invest in your marriage. Christ is counting on it!

Bible Study & Small Group Opportunities at 2UC

Day and Study	Location	Contact
Sunday 9am Adult Bible Study Matthew	2UC Conference Room	Lizzette Kelley: Howard01@prtc.net
Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study (12-2) The Seven Signs of Jesus - Lucado	2UC Fellowship Hall	Christie Zoba: zoba129@gmail.com 787-717-4001
Tuesday Evening Bible Study (7-9pm)	Loraine and Luis Alberto Rivera’s home in San Francisco	Loraine & Luis 787-370-2448
Wednesday Men’s Breakfast (7-8am) Apologetics	2UC Fellowship Hall	Pastor Bob: PastorBobZoba@gmail.com
Thursday Morning Bible Study	2UC	Anita Rodriguez: anita009926@aol.com
Thursday Night Prayer Service (6-7pm)	2UC Conference Room	Pastor Bob or Anita Rodriguez

2UC

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**MARCH 31****Bring A Friend
Sunday**

What a joy to be a member to Second Union Church. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians defines members: "Now you are the body of CHRIST, and individual members of it. And God has placed these in the church".

We are unified in CHRIST. His mission, purpose, ministries and activities are united in one goal for HIS glory. Let's bring a friend to church on March 31, 2019 for we seek the joy and blessings of others.

Respectfully,
The Membership Committee

Second Union Church Council & Staff**Pastor**

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President

Brian Tester

**Vice President & Forward
Planning**

Humbelina Treviño

Treasurer

Stan Pinkerton

Secretary

Justin Mohler

Worship

Risa Tobin

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Property

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Wanda Billoch

**Staff-Congregation Relations
& Nominating**

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Membership

Nilda Román

Fellowship

Julio Rivera

Women's Ministry

Anita Rodriguez

Men's Ministry

John Alberts

Pianist

Luis Manuel Tirado

Choir & Worship Leader

Jeff Penn

Youth Pastor

Gustavo Gonzalez

Office Manager

Mabel Varela

**Newsletter Editor
Website Administrator**

Christie Curie Zoba

Aidy Candelaria was home recently. It was good to see her after so much time away in Miami, Florida where she is an events organizer.

The Alberts are back after their grandchildren swing as John had one set of grandkids in Illinois and Evelyn covered the Connecticut kids. Welcome home!

We said a sad farewell to Wendy, Charles, and Claudia Heath as they sold their condo here and have relocated to London, England. We will miss the way Wendy got everybody on Sunday morning when she served as our liturgist.



Victor & Marisela have been back and forth to the DR where they have a retirement property. Victor sold his wonderful Italian restaurant in La Placita and will be spending more time away....when he's not golfing here;-)

Dennis & Amarilis Gonzalez recently returned from a trip to Mardi Gras in New Orleans and a visit to the Indian Wells tennis tournament, where they cheered on Puerto Rico's gold-medal winner, Monica Puig.



David Benson reports that he got a dream job up in the States. It's part-time, which allows him opportunity to spend time with his family, but pays more than his previous full-time job. What a deal! Plus, now that the Red Sox won the last World Series and the Pats won the last World Series, he is hoping the under performing Celtics can take the NBA finals. (Well, you can always dream;-)!!!

Ramon Chinaea is having fun coaching his beloved bobble-heads football team. These are pint-sized kids who's football helmets seem oversized for their tiny bodies, hence the bobble-heads moniker.

Edwin Ebube's Manhattan College basketball team won their first round of their conference playoffs, but got bounced in the second. However, Edwin had a great year of individual achievements this year as the 6th man off the bench. Since he will be a junior next year, he will definitely be a starter. Congrats Edwin!



Tom and Patricia Engfer celebrated Patricia's 27th(?) birthday with a Caribbean cruise.

Brenda Ferrer is back in action as she recently volunteered at WBMJ's share-a-thon 2019.

Julio Rivera will be surrounded by bunches of family members in April as he celebrates his 88th birthday. Wow!

The Yost family will be back from their six-month stint in Australia in April and will be making a visit to Indiana to see the Foster family and their adopted grand-children.



Brendan & Sarah Frye recently hosted Sarah's parents from the Houston, TX area. Sarah's dad is a Baptist pastor.



Dennis & Linda Glen recently celebrated the marriage of their dear daughter. Congrats!!!

The original Brooklyn Dodger, Sylvia O'Connor, is back from the Big Apple and is among us again. Welcome home, Sylvia!

Mauricio Gomez was back on the island recently, finishing up some final rotations and is slated to graduate this June. He and his bride Danielle and son, Lucas will soon be announcing the arrival of the newest member of the family, Lucia! Mauricio's residency will begin in August in Tampa. Congrats Mauricio and Danielle!

Pastor Bob's sister, Joy, was in Puerto Rico in February for wedding in Vieques. Joy, Bob and Christie enjoyed a short visit and were able to get some tennis in as well.



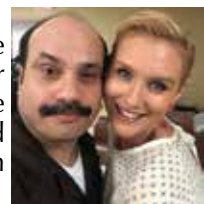
The Mohlers hosted Justin's uncle and treated them to an afternoon in lechon heaven, i.e. Guavate.



Hector & Susan Pages, long-time pillars of 2UC, were back for a visit to PR and they are doing great in Florida. They were here to celebrate Hector's mom's 90th birthday.

Edwin & Mercedes Perez are up in NYC where Mercedes will be receiving treatment for a throat issue. But the doctor assures her that she will be back to singing Gospel music soon!!!

Jaime Irizarry is starring in a movie with Bruce Willis. He is also the star of our Children's Sermon moment as he recently took the kids on a cruise passed the seductive singing of the Sirens from Greek lore. (He deserves an Oscar.)



We are glad to welcome seven new members to 2UC. They are Luis & Laura Quijano, Consuelo Rampolla, and Los Pijims: Julio, Monica, Julio Jr., and Veronica. See their bios in this month's newsletter.

Carlos Rivera will be bringing 30-40 members of his world-class, UPI choir to 2UC on Palm Sunday. This should be a very special Sunday, and a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors.

Sadly, Steven & Loida Spivak had to return to their home in Virginia for a time. But Steve and Mike LaLlave have been working with Hogar Posada to help them with fire code issues in their new facility. Thanks Steve and Mike!

Patricia Nuñez has developed a very special bond with Lubel as part of our English tutoring program at the Centro Vedruno near the church. Patty spends two afternoons each week with Lubel, and on those days, Lubel anxiously awaits her arrival. We still need a few tutors willing to volunteer once a week. See Christie Zoba if you have an hour of your time to spare.



Nicole Stowell and her husband Francisco joined our couples group last week for our study of the Five Love Languages. We are happy to report that these two newlyweds have been fruitful and multiplied as Nicole is pregnant with a little boy. Congrats!



Anita Rodriguez recently organized a Women's retreat for the 2UC women. Thanks to Pastors Mariel, Brenda and Elilda for their time leading the teaching sessions.

We are happy to report that we had several pilgrims from 2UC attend the most recent Emmaus Walk.

Rosa Trinidad is off to retrieve her beautiful granddaughter, Penelope. She will be staying with Grandma for a little while as daughter, Ivette, gets settled.



Women's Ministry team members recently visited Hogar Ruth, a home for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. This shelter helps hundreds of women through a very challenging process. They do wonderful work, and it is a blessing to be able to encourage them in their work.



Thomas & Ceci Von Hillebrandt are downsizing and moving to a place closer to the beach.

Ron and Raquel Seeley, and their three children were recently in San Juan for a short visit. It was great spending time with their growing family. They are now living in the Boston area!



A big thanks to Javier Rodriguez, our Property Chair, who organized and supervised the installation of new flooring in the Fellowship Hall and in the back hallways. It looks great. Rumor has it, he took on the job of painting the walls on Friday and Saturday! What a guy!

Speaking of Javier, he and his bride, Humbelina recently traveled to the end of the world for an experience of a lifetime. They hiked mountains and canoed amongst glaciers in southern Argentina. Humbelina posted so many breathtakingly beautiful pictures on her FB page - amazing. See Javier's article in the newsletter about his reflections about encountering God in His creation!



In Memoriam

Second Union Church has lost three members of our congregation during the first part of 2019. Frankie Cruz passed away in January.

Attie Goosen passed away in February following a long battle with bladder cancer. He was a faithful member of the Men's Breakfast crew where he challenged them with his wit and sharp mind. A memorial service was held for him at Second Union. Our loving concern and deepest condolences for his wife, Alta and his daughter, Seugnet. We will miss Attie.



Pablo Melendez, long time Second Union Church member, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2019 after a very long illness. He is survived by his wife of over forty years, Elsa. She was a faithful and loving wife through this lengthy decline, and we thank her for the example and inspiration she is to all of us. A funeral service was held for Pablo at the Ehret Funeral Home in Rio Piedras.



Have you ever wondered what is the force that holds the universe in place? Many of us are conditioned not to think beyond what our sight can reach. Even when we feel the heat of the sun, see the stages of the moon and the shine of the stars at night we rarely appreciate its presence and let alone think about its perfect balance. It may all have a scientific explanation but ultimately the greatest mystery unveils when you get to know the architect of it all.



My wife and I have had the blessing to be able to hike some of the most beautiful but strenuous mountains. When you hike, your physical condition is important but not sufficient. It is not until you are exhausted that you surrender to the fact that your physical condition can't take you to the top of the mountain. Faith and trust will. Faith makes you understand that all that surrounds you is God's work. Trust is the force that drives you on your journey relying on a plan bigger than yourself.

Each step you take, as small as it may be, is getting you closer to the place you want to reach. When you walk in a mountain is not different than everyday life; there are ups and downs. Sometimes you feel strong others you feel weak. As you ascend, no matter how severe the weather might be, you sweat. As you walk down, no matter how easy it seems, your knees struggle. Your interaction with the mountain makes you feel small in size and overwhelm with such greatness. But if you turn your focus onto your objective, nothing can stop you.

When you see from far away you have become one with the mountain and the mountain welcomes you as long as you are willing to suffer through its path. There is a greater plan for us all in the eyes of God. Everything is in balance because it is his creation. When you become one with God's creation you encounter with the fulfillment of conquer. Not the conquer of the mountain but of your spirit.

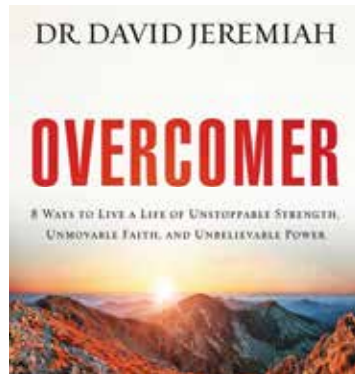
Isn't this what life is all about? Balance, Faith and Trust.
by Javier Rodriguez

Lenten Word Search

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S
T	T	M	Y	B	M	F	J	E	S	U	A	J	A	C	K	A	Y	U	U
N	W	S	P	S	G	O	L	O	V	E	L	E	C	E	D	N	T	R	R
N	A	G	R	F	A	R	L	P	A	L	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	R
J	S	I	A	A	F	T	P	L	Y	E	S	E	I	S	O	J	U	S	E
C	H	V	Y	S	O	Y	U	J	Y	N	U	A	F	T	A	E	R	U	C
J	I	I	E	T	R	D	R	R	M	T	N	S	I	E	H	S	S	S	T
A	N	N	R	I	H	A	P	W	D	J	D	T	C	R	X	U	D	W	I
N	G	G	C	N	O	Y	L	W	E	A	A	E	E	Y	G	S	A	Z	O
W	E	D	N	G	L	S	E	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	H	Y	C	N

- Ash Wednesday
- Sacrifice
- Almsgiving
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter
- Palm Sunday
- Purple
- Palm Branch
- Forty Days
- Jesus
- Passover
- Foot Washing
- Resurrection
- Love

Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, April 18	6pm	Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner & Service
Friday, April 19	7pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Saturday, April 20		
Sunday, April 21	6am	Sunrise Service at El Morro
	9am	Sunday Brunch at 2UC
	10am	Easter Service



Tuesday Night Bible Study

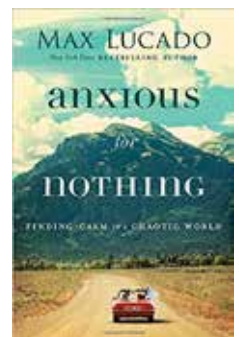
7 - 9 pm • February 26-May 7
at the home of Luis & Loraine Rivera - Urb. San Francisco
5 minutes from church!

Our small group invites you to join us as we pray for one another, study the Word of God together, and share our lives in a relaxed setting of confidence and trust. Call Loraine for details: 787-370-2448

Women's Bible Study Tuesdays: noon-2pm

Crazy Love by Francis Chan: Feb 18-April 16

Anxious For Nothing by Max Lucado: Beginning April 23



AA Meetings at 2UC

Alcoholics Anonymous (commonly referred to as AA) is perhaps the most widely known program related to overcoming addiction or chemical dependency. For decades, AA meetings have helped countless men and women overcome their dependence upon alcohol and begin (or continue) their pursuit of a lifelong recovery.

Second Union Church lends its rooms for this great cause every Wednesday evening at 7pm. Together we share our experience, our strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others recover from alcoholism.

As we move from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, I want to visit the events which took place after the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child.

“Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Jerusalem and reveal to King Herod the whereabouts of “He who has been born King of the Jews,” the Magi left for their own countries by another road. In the meantime, Joseph received an angelic visit in a dream. The angel’s message was clear: “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him” (Matt. 2:13).

Joseph quickly set out during the night with Mary and Jesus on a 40 mile trip to Egypt. Through God’s provision, the Redeemer and Savior of the world was on His way to Egyptian-controlled territory, where He would be safe and protected, out of Herod’s jurisdiction.

Joseph’s flight into Egypt had taken place none too soon. Back in Jerusalem, a furious King Herod realized he had been outwitted by the Magi, and issued a command that all the male children two years old and younger around Bethlehem were to be put to death (v16). Unbeknownst to him, his cruel actions were fulfilling the prophecy made by the prophet Jeremiah regarding the slaughter of innocent children (Jeremiah 31:15). His massacre was carried out, but his ruthless intent to rid the world of the Messiah had been thwarted by God. He had intervened to protect Jesus, His only Son, His chosen One to carry out the plan of salvation for all of mankind. Until the appointed time, the Child was safe in Egypt.

So who are these men referred to as Herod in the New Testament? Herod the Great and his sons; Herod Archelaus, Herod Antipas, and Herod Philip I, or Philip the Tetrarch, were part of a dynasty, partly hereditary and partly appointed line of Indumean rulers who ruled over Israel during the days of the Roman Empire. Unlike the previous kings of Israel, they were appointed by the Roman emperors and the Senate.

Herod the Great, or king Herod, ruled over Israel when Jesus was born though he wasn’t completely Jewish. His father was by descent an Edomite (descended from Esau who sold his birth right to Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup) whose ancestors had converted to Judaism. He made great accomplishments in Israel during his time, the most notable one being Herod’s temple in Jerusalem. It was burnt down and destroyed in AD 70 by Roman soldiers under Titus, fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy in Matt. 24:1-3. As it burned, the lavish gold and silver ornamentation melted and seeped between the cracks in the stones. Literally, the Roman soldiers took the temple apart, stone by stone, to get to the gold and silver. The temple mound where Herod’s temple stood is now home to the Islamic Dome of the Rock. All that remains of the temple is the Western Wall or the Walling Wall.



History will remember Herod the Great as a ruthless man with an uncontrolled and insatiable appetite for power, quick to brutally eliminate any threat to the throne. This is why he tried to murder Jesus Christ, the rightful heir, both legally and by bloodline through Mary, to David’s throne. When he died in the spring of 4 BC, his will divided the kingdom among three sons; Herod Archelaus, his oldest surviving son, was to rule over Judea, Herod Antipas received Galilee, and Philip the Tetrarch the lands north and east of the Sea of Galilee.

After the death of King Herod, Joseph received another angelic visit in a dream where he was instructed to return back to Israel with Mary and Jesus, for those who were seeking to kill Jesus were dead. In leaving the land of Egypt, the prophecy of Hosea 11:1 was being fulfilled; “And out of Egypt I called My Son.” As they began their journey home on their way to Judea, Joseph became afraid as word reached him that Herod Archelaus was the new ruler of Judea. His fear was not unfounded but confirmed as he was once again warned by God in a dream, and “he turned aside into the region of Galilee...and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene” (Matt. 2:22-23). Nazareth was about 55 miles from Jerusalem, up in the Galilean hills away from the main roads.

It was remote, obscure, tiny, and looked down upon by the Jews, yet this was where Jesus grew up, the town Mary and Joseph had called home prior to His birth.

The ruler of Galilee was Herod Antipas, son of king Herod, who had a milder temper, not quite as volatile and violent as his father's or eldest brother's. He is the Herod most often mentioned in the New Testament. Herod Antipas was personally responsible for having John the Baptist arrested, bound, and thrown in prison because he denounced Herod's unlawful marriage to Herodias, the wife of his half-brother Philip. This so enraged Herodias that she hatched a scheme with her daughter, Salome, to have John the Baptist beheaded. Salome danced before the king and his guests on his birthday, and Herod was so pleased that in his drunken stupor he promised to grant her any request she desired. Out of revenge for criticizing her marriage to Herod, Herodias told Salome to ask for the head of John the Baptist. Appalled at her request, yet unable to go back on the oath he had made before his dinner guests, he had John the Baptist beheaded in prison and his head brought on a platter to Salome. She in turn presented it to her mother, Herodias.



Salome dances before King Herod by Jacob Hogers (1630-55). Rijksmuseum.

Herod Antipas was also a co-conspirator in the crucifixion of Jesus. During the time of Jesus, there were certain groups; the Pharisees, the Herodians, and the Sadducees, that held positions of authority and power over the people. The Herodians, supporters of Herod Antipas, favored allegiance and submission to the Herods and therefore Rome. They looked to Herod Antipas as a messiah, thus Jesus was a real threat to them as He interfered with their agenda to make Herod Antipas the influential political power in the land. The Pharisees hated Jesus because He threatened their security, prestige, and income. They had brokered an "uneasy peace" with Rome, and Jesus' popularity, His talk of the kingdom, and His affirmation that He was in fact their long awaited Messiah, all threatened the uneasy peace. Though at odds with each other, the Herodians and the Pharisees had one thing in common; their hatred for Jesus, thus they joined efforts with the common goal in mind to rid the world of the Messiah, what Herod the Great had unsuccessfully tried to accomplish when Jesus was a child.

Betrayed by a kiss from one of His own disciples, Judas Iscariot, Jesus was arrested by the temple guards of the Sanhedrin in the Garden of Gethsemane and brought before Pontius Pilate, governor and prefect of Judea. Trying to escape the responsibility of dealing with Jesus of Nazareth, he was delighted to learn He was from Galilee and sent Him to Herod Antipas who happened to be in Jerusalem for the Passover. When Herod saw Jesus in person, he was "exceedingly glad." Wanting to be entertained by Jesus, he asked Him to perform miracles for him, as well as asked Him many questions, to which Jesus made no response. He knew in His heart that Herod Antipas wasn't searching for truth. Herod mocked Jesus, and allowed his soldiers to ridicule and beat Him, then sent Him back to Pilate (Luke 23:8-11). From that very day, Herod and Pilate became friends, and the ecumenical movement against Jesus began ending in the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ on Golgotha.

Praise be to God that no matter the evil and wickedness in the hearts of these men, or Satan's attempt to prevent Jesus from accomplishing God's plan of salvation, these men were instrumental in bringing it about. Through the birth, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, death, the final enemy, was defeated for once and for all. The Son's blood-sacrifice on Calvary's Cross was sacrificial, substitutionary, and sufficient to appease the wrath of God due us for our sins. It atoned for the sin of the world and our individual sin. Hallelujah that as the redeemed of the Father we can say; "Where, O, death, is your victory? Where, O, death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:55-57). Amen. "Even so, come Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Rev. 22:20-21).

Contributed by Mayra Chipi

This is a suggested readings for Holy Week - you may want to consider reading these passages to 'walk with Jesus' as you prepare your hearts for Easter!

After raising Lazarus from the dead in Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus "...no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there into the country near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, and there remained with His disciples" (John 11: 54). This Jesus did in order to escape those who were plotting to kill Him for His time had not yet come. Ephraim was to the north of Jerusalem and to the east of the Jordan River.

As Passover was approaching, Jesus set out toward Jerusalem and "... went through the midst of Samaria and Galilee" (Luke 17: 11). This was very unusual for the Jews never went through Samaria, but went around it, on their way to Jerusalem. Afterward, they crossed over the Jordan River into Jericho. While in Jericho, two important events took place: Jesus came to the house of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector (Luke 19: 1-10), and blind Bartimaeus was healed and received sight (Mark 10: 46-52).

SATURDAY: Jesus goes back to Bethany and dines in the home of Simon the leper (Matthew 26: 6-13). The gospel of John identifies the woman who anoints Jesus with the costly perfume as Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (12: 1-8). She is not to be confused with the sinful woman of Luke 7: 36-40 who anointed Jesus' feet with fragrant oil at the home of a Pharisee.

SUNDAY: Palm Sunday- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21: 1-11). This is the first time Jesus enters the temple. He spends the night in Bethany with His disciples (Mark 11: 11).

MONDAY: On His way from Bethany to Jerusalem, Jesus causes the fig tree to wither because it was fruitless or sterile (Mark 11: 12-14). While in Jerusalem, He enters the temple for the second time and cleanses it, driving out the money-changers and merchants. Jesus cleansed Herod's temple twice; once at the beginning of His ministry (John 2: 11-12) and the day after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, shortly before His crucifixion (Mark 11: 15).

TUESDAY: Jesus' third and final day in the temple (Matthew 21: 23-26: 16). Jesus departed from the temple and went to the Mount of Olives where He speaks of the signs of the times:

Jesus' Authority Questioned (Matt. 21: 23-27)
The Parable of the Two Sons (vv 28-32)
The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers (vv 33-46)
The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matt. 22: 1-14)
The Pharisees: Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes to Caesar? (vv 15-22)
The Sadducees: What About the Resurrection? (vv 23-33)
The Scribes: Which Is the First Commandment of All? (vv 34-40)
Jesus: How Can David Call His Descendant Lord? (vv 41-45)

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 23: 1-36)
Jesus Laments Over Jerusalem (vv 37-39)
Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple (Matt. 24: 1, 2)
The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age (vv 3-14)
The Coming of the Son of Man (vv 29-31)
The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matt. 25: 1-13)
The Parable of the Talents (vv 14-30)
The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations (vv 31-46)
The Widow's Two Mites (Mark 12: 41-44)

WEDNESDAY: Day of rest in Bethany

THURSDAY: During the day- preparations for the Passover (Mark 14:12-16) - Evening- Passover meal in the upper room.

Probable order of the events:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a). Jesus and His disciples stake their places at the table (Matt. 26: 20) | (d). Judas Iscariot is identified as the betrayer (Matt. 26: 21-25) | (g). Jesus' words in the upper room (Luke 22: 35-38; John 13: 31-35; 14:1-31) |
| (b). Contention over who is the greatest (Luke 22: 24-27) | (e). Judas Iscariot leaves to betray Jesus (John 13: 30) | (h). Jesus' words between the upper room and Gethsemane (Matt. 26: 31-35, John 15-17) |
| (c). Jesus washes the disciples' feet (John 13: 1-5) | (f). Jesus institutes the Lord's supper (Matt. 26: 26-29) | |

THURSDAY NIGHT Gethsemane: Matthew 26: 36

Note: Jesus had already predicted His death and manner of death (Matt. 16: 21; 17: 22-23; 20: 17-19; 26: 2)

FRIDAY: Trials and the Road to Crucifixion

(a). Before Annas, father of Caiphas who was high priest that year (John 18: 12-24). Took place close to midnight.

(b). Before the Sanhedrin at the house of Caiphas between midnight and early morning. Caiphas' previous opinion (John 11: 49-53; Mark 14: 53-65) Sanhedrin-rabbinical court made up of 71 judges (70 members plus the high priest) Acted as the Supreme Court

Peter's Threefold Denial:

- First denial- Mark 14: 66-68; John 18: 17-18

- Second and third denials- Mark 14: 69- 72; John 18: 25-27

The denials were not consecutive, but sandwiched in between Jesus' trials (Luke 22: 59).

(c). Pontius Pilate- Luke 23: 1-5

(d). Herod Antipas- Luke 23: 6-12 Beheaded John the Baptist - Jesus had previously judged his conduct (Luke 13: 32)

(e). Pontius Pilate again- Luke 23: 13-25

Sentences Jesus to death and releases Barabbas Luke 23: 18-25

Charges- Jesus is charged with treason (Luke 23: 2)

On His way to Calvary- La Via Dolorosa

Simon of Cyrene carries Jesus' cross (Mark 15: 25)

Golgotha (Aramaic)

Calvary (Hebrew)

Time of His crucifixion- 9:00 in the morning (Mark 15: 25)

Darkness over all the earth- from 12:00 noon to 3:00pm (Luke 23: 44)

Jesus dismisses His spirit (Mark 15: 34-37)

Title on the Cross-

JESUS OF NAZARETH - THE KING OF THE JEWS

written in three languages

Greek, Latin, and Hebrew (John 19: 21)

Greek- education, literature, intelligence

Latin- law, order

Hebrew (Aramaic)- language of the religious Spoken by the Jews in Palestine

Jesus' last words- first three before noon, then the rest.

JESUS' LAST WORDS	
1.	"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23: 34).
2.	"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23: 43).
3.	"Woman, behold your son!...Behold your mother!" (John 19: 26, 27)
4.	"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27: 46; Mark 15: 34)
5.	"I thirst!" (John 19: 28)
6.	"It is finished!" (John 19: 30)

Burial- John 19: 38-42

SATURDAY: In the sepulcher

SUNDAY: Resurrection (Matt. 28: 1-10)

Second Union is pleased to welcome our new members. Please take a moment to learn more about them, and make an effort to greet them and introduce yourself to them!

Luis Quijano: Luis is a retired teacher who spent most of his life in New York and the last 18 months here in PR. Luis grew up as a Roman Catholic, but as teenager rebelled against God and drifted from the faith. In his adult life, he came to have an interest in God, but kept being turned off by the “people of God” who did not seem to practice what they preached. But he eventually realized that you cannot base your faith on people, for they will always disappoint you, but instead, you must look to God himself. After seeking God for several years by going down various religious paths, he and Laura, his wife, retired to the Catskills in New York. They started attending a local Lutheran Church and felt about home there. This led to their involvement in a small group Bible study, and their faith in the Lord was transformed. His pilgrimage has not always been an easy one as he was stricken with cancer 15 years ago, but he is a fighter and a survivor. Luis joins 2UC by profession of faith.

Laura Quijano: Laura also grew up in New York, Brooklyn to be exact, and like Luis was a teacher, specializing in Special Education. She too comes out of a Roman Catholic background, attended parochial school, but was never much interested in spiritual things as she grew up, had two children, and pursued life. But about five years ago, when she and Luis started tending a Lutheran Church in the Catskills, she sensed God speaking to her about her love and his love for her and she became a follower of Jesus. Her hobbies include reading and working out in the gym. She too joins 2UC by means of profession of faith. Luis and Laura have been faithful attendees of our adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings and they enjoy reading through the entire Bible on an biennial plan.

Consuelo Rampolla: Consuelo lived almost her entire life here in Puerto Rico; however, her mother is from the United States, thus she is fully bilingual. She grew up in a small Protestant Church which, ironically, was also attended by our own Nina Roman. (This was a realization that Nina came to during our New Members orientation class.) Consuelo was one of five sisters and has remained active in church activities most of her life, including her work as a youth leader. She drifted from her faith later in life, but found her way back to Lord more recently. Thanks to her sister Sarah, she was able to find her way to Second Union Church several years ago. She now serves as our PowerPoint projectionist extraordinaire. She has also been a teacher for the last 12 years with 10 years at Wesleyan Academy and more recently with Tasis in Dorado. Consuelo competes in triathlons and thus enjoys running, swimming, and cycling. We welcome her to Second Union today by mean of her profession of faith.

Julio E. Pijem Berríos -Julio was raised in the Methodist tradition and attended Wesleyan Academy in Guaynabo. He describes himself as “a persevering Christian amidst my flaws”. Julio went on to attend and graduate from the InterAmerican University School of Law in 1995 and has practiced Real Estate and Mortgage Law for the last 21 years. (He claims he is almost as good a tennis player as Pastor Bob;-). Our thanks to fellow tennis player, Omar Montalvo, who invited Julio to 2UC. Julio also enjoys reading historical biographies. He especially admires Sir Winston Churchill and FDR. He and his beloved wife, Monica, have attended our Couples Group and are very devoted parents to their children, Julio, Jr. and Veronica. (They both attended our VBS program last summer.) Julio joins us today be means of profession of faith.

Mónica Marrero - Monica, like Julio, grew up in the Methodist tradition and also attended Wesleyan Academy. However, after her elementary years, she attended high school at the Academia María Reina. She graduated from La Universidad Sagrado Corazón in the School Of Commerce.. She served as a medical rep for 16 years, but nowadays is a full-time mom and is devoted to her kids as a supermom, a soccer mom to her daughter, Veronica, and a basketball mom to her son Julio. She too joins us today by profession of faith.

Opportunities to Improve Your Spanish

Spanish 101	Tuesdays at 9-10am	Fellowship Hall
Conversational Spanish	Tuesdays at 10am-11:30	Fellowship Hall

**There is no cost. Bring a notebook and a desire to learn.
For more information, contact Christie Curie Zoba at 787-717-4001 or just show up!**