



MAKING JESUS KNOWN – TOGETHER.

10:00am – January 7th, 2024

Children’s Ministry (*birth – 6th grade*) available

Welcome/Prayer	Pastor Brian
Baptisms	Mike & Debby DiFulvio
Worship in Song	Worship Team
Bible Teaching	Pastor John
Worship in Song	Worship Team

NEW GUESTS: Please visit the Welcome Booth in café after service to receive a gift! We also invite you to fill out the Connection Card (*seat pocket in front of you*) & drop in the box at the Booth in cafe.

Special Upcoming Opportunities

CELEBRATING THE LORDS SUPPER/COMMUNION: Sunday Jan 14th. We remember the sacrifice of Jesus giving His body and shedding His blood for the forgiveness of our sin. All believers invited.

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION WORKSHOP: Sun. Jan 21st 11:45am. Pizza served – **please RSVP in foyer**. All parents, grandparents, and children’s ministry volunteers encouraged to attend – PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED (childcare in Kids Church for birth thru 6th gr).

OPEN ARMS APP: Our Open Arms APP is being discontinued as of the 1st of the year. We are updating our website & will provide more information on how you can stay connected online as we progress.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES: Be on the lookout for new groups forming in late January, listed in program, then enroll in foyer!

INDOOR SPORTS/REC:

Mon: Men’s Basketball 7-9:30pm. Tim Stuitje: tim.stuitje@gmail.com

Tues: Kid’s Playdate - 10-noon Tiffani Stuitje: tnt.stuitje@gmail.com

Tues: Coed Volleyball - 6:30-8:30pm. Kevin Ellwood: 315-269-6433

Wed: Coed Pickleball - 6:30-9:00pm. Tim & Tiffani Stuitje.

Everyday Life at OAC

BAPTISM: Baptism is a special time to celebrate your journey of faith & obedience to Christ. Contact a pastor to tell of your interest.

PRAYER: Join with others on **Sundays 9-9:40am** and/or the **2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30pm** in the last room on the left in the Education wing.

GIVING OPTIONS: 1) Drop in offering boxes by worship center doors
2) Check by mail. 3) Use link on website / app. *website: /egiving*

For more information & other opportunities, visit us at:

OpenArmsChurch.com



openarmschurchnewyork



Open Arms Church



openarmschurchny



OpenArms_NY

For the latest happenings with the new church plant, visit:

FiresideChurchNY.com

Compromising when Sharing Jesus can Cost

Acts 21:17 - 22:24

¹⁷When we had come to Jerusalem, the **brothers** received us gladly. ¹⁸On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the **Jews of those who have believed**. They are all zealous for the law, ²¹and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. ²²What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. ²³**Do therefore what we tell you.** We have four men who are under a vow; ²⁴take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. ²⁵But as for the **Gentiles who have believed**, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.” ²⁶Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

²⁷When the seven days were almost completed, the **Jews from Asia**, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸crying out: Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” ²⁹For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and **they supposed** that Paul had brought him into the temple. ³⁰Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut. ³¹And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. ³²He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks. ³⁵And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, ³⁶for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”

³⁷As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune: **May I say something to you?** And he said: Do you know Greek? ³⁸Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?” ³⁹Paul replied, “I am a Jew,

from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. **I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.**" ⁴⁰And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, **he addressed them in the Hebrew language**, saying:

^{22:1}**Brothers and fathers**, hear the defense that I now make before you. ²And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: ³I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, **being zealous for God as all of you are this day.** ⁴I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' ⁸And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me: 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' ⁹Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' ¹¹And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. ¹²And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know His will, to see the Right-eous One and to hear a voice from His mouth; ¹⁵for you will be a witness for Him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

¹⁷When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.' ¹⁹And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' ²¹And He said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

²²Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." ²³And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.

Sharing Jesus is Often Messy – Consider these Tips:

- 1) Followers of Jesus can focus too much on the "old". **20>**
- 2) Remember you're 'for Jesus' - not against religion. **27-28**
- 3) Many have presuppositions and won't listen. **29-30**
- 4) Ask permission to share and do so respectfully. **37-39**
- 5) Be winsome as you identify with your listeners. **40-2:3**
- 6) People listen to a point until their bias/blindness... **22:2**

"Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23