



The Messenger

March 22, 2026, Number 12

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Todd's Take

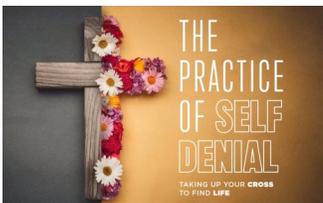
Good morning and welcome! We're so glad to be together as a church family today. If you're our guest this morning, thank you for being here—we'd love to get to know you.

This week we continue our series, The Practice of Self-Denial, with the second message exploring what self-denial actually prepares us for and why it matters.

Every Olympic athlete standing on a podium arrived there through years of saying no — to comfort, to cravings, to the easier path. That kind of self-denial didn't diminish them. It formed them and made them ready for the moment that mattered.

That is exactly the dynamic Jesus demonstrates in Luke 4:1-13.

Immediately after his baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for forty days of hunger, silence, and testing. When the enemy came with three temptations, each one was an invitation to settle — to let appetite, ambition, or the need for control



make decisions that belonged to God. Jesus refused every time. And when he emerged from that wilderness, Luke tells us he returned "in the power of the Spirit," ready to begin the most impactful ministry the world has ever seen.

The wilderness didn't drain him. It prepared him.

We live in a culture that works against this kind of formation — so entertained, so comfortable, so endlessly distracted that we risk surrendering depth and purpose without even noticing.

Each temptation Jesus faced carries a promise for us: self-denial orders our lives around something greater than our cravings, builds genuine integrity that no shortcut can produce, and deepens a relationship with God rooted in trust rather than transaction.

The wilderness is not the end of the story. It is the beginning.



DAISY'S LITTLE RED WAGON WILL BE HERE NEXT SUNDAY

Bring your coins to help support the outreach ministries of PACOC

Schedule

Sunday Adult Bible Classes

Truth Rising—9AM in Worship Center
Sonshine Hour for 4 yrs old to 6th grade in the gym. Under 4 yrs old in the nursery of main building.

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

Children Dismissed to Classes at

10:45-11:30AM

0 - 3 Year Olds—Nursery Area
Pre K-6th Grade—Family Life Center

Sunday Youth Group Activities

5:00-7:30PM

Wednesday Discipleship Making Communities (DMCs)

Wednesday at 6:30 for all ages. Other DMCs meet at various times and locations throughout the week. Go to pacoc.net/groups

Scan the QR code below for links to the communication card, news, and giving.



Wifi Password:
pacoguest

MINISTERS

Todd Catteau , Preaching Minister
Tyler Cope, Family Minister
Sam Cannon, Youth Minister
Basil McClure, Worship & Outreach Minister
Rachel McClure, Children & Family Minister

SHEPHERDS

Gary Calvert: 972.658.4970 Greg Clay: 580.920.6648
Todd Detro: 903.267.8285 Shane Haddock: 580.775.1803
George Hatfield: 903.357.3563 David Kirkbride: 903.436.7283
Blake Smith: 214.549.9544

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday AM Classes

At 9AM we have two classes for the Adults. One in the Worship Center called **"The World Turned Upside Down.** Another for new members and guests called **PACOC 101** in Room C. Sonshine hour is available for children of parents attending class.

Thank You

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your constant prayers and support while we were out of the country. We are beyond grateful for the time we did spend with Carter. Your prayers brought us peace during some of the scariest times and we will never forget that. Thank you for your continued prayers for Carter and the military. Love, **The Hayes Family**

Ladies Brunch

Women of all ages and stages of life are invited to join us for a brunch on **Saturday, April 4 from 10:00-11:30** in the Ark for a time of stories and sisterhood. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women. There will be no childcare but children are welcome!

Ladies Retreat

Register now at pacoc.net/ladies for our annual Ladies Retreat at the Prothro Center on Lake Texoma from **April 24-26.** The cost is \$150 for overnight retreaters and \$75 for day only retreaters. **Registration will close on April 10. Final payments are also due on April 10.**

The Big Event—This Saturday, March 28

It is not too late to register to join PACOC's group to help residents and businesses in the City of Denison with outdoor projects (painting fences, yard clean up, gardening, repairs, etc.) It is past the deadline to get a T-shirt but you can still sign up today for the event at pacoc.net/bigevent



Prayer List

Nancy Strobel, Matt Hogan, Bill Douglass, Tommy Todd, Dorothy Bankston, Harold Porter, Max Williams, Howard Veasley, Bob Corley, Patrick Mullins, Peggy Porter, Elizabeth Phillips, Floyd Clark, Lisa Cobble, Jannie Bellows, Nancy Richards, Woody Reding, Cynthia Thomas, Kristi Porter-Francis

Homebound—Joyce Martin, Daisy Miller, Bobby & Peggy Slaughter, Arlene Joines, Margie Lowing

Expectant Mothers—Allie Dollar

Missions—Hammer & Dela Afakule (Togo), Mario "Pepe" Torre (Monterrey, Mexico), Jimenez family (Cartagena, Colombia), Cristian & Ana Corrales (Bucaramanga, Colombia), Rio Branco (Brazil)

Friends of Park Avenue—Rebekah Taylor, (great niece of the Russell's), Becky Sanchez (wife of Gil Sanchez, former Director of orphanage in Mexico), Oliver Bush (father of Amyee McAlister & Ashley Tharp), Melanie Hill (sister-in-law of David & Christine Kirkbride), Steven Schroeder (Nephew of TJ Atnip), Chris Mahaffey (son of Scott & Joyce Mahaffey), Dale Dreher (brother of Carri Wingard)

Please notify the church office at office@parkavenuechurch.com for updates.

Grace Offering

Our Grace Offering is only two weeks away on **Sunday, April 5.** This is our annual contribution toward Park Avenue's local and global outreaches. **There will be 2 services that Sunday; 8 AM and 10 AM. There will be NO 9AM Adult Bible Class. We will have kids classes at the 10 AM service.** Also, **KIDS**—don't forget to be filling up your cans for **Daisy's Little Red Wagon NEXT SUNDAY, March 29.**



Children's Ministry Volunteer Needs

An assistant is needed for Wednesday nights during **April and May** for 3rd/4th grade class. A teacher and assistant are needed for Sundays in **April** for 1st/2nd grade class. For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Rachel McClure.**

Family Ministry

- **Saturday, April 11:** Family Cookout, Fun & Worship Night at the Cope's House, (2926 Village Circle) from 5:30-7:30PM for all families!
- **Casa Mission Trip June 27-July 3:** We only have a limited number of seats left. Please register as soon as possible to guarantee your spot! The cost is \$375 per person.
- **Family Ministry Webpage:** Check this out at pacoc.net/family where you will find announcements, past Family Ministry moments and more!

Youth Ministry

- **Sunday, March 22:** Connect in the gym from 5:00-7:30 PM.
- **Saturday, April 18:** Intern Meet & Greet. More details coming soon!
- **Sunday, May 3-Senior Sunday:** Here are the Seniors we have so far: **Seth Banks, Elizha Fernandez, Brady Harrelson, Henry Mullins, Aubrie Slaughter, Londyn Slaughter, Kayla Taisler, Alissa Thompson.** If we have missed someone, please let Sam know as soon as possible.



Join us this Wednesday at 5:15 PM for our PAWS meal. We are having **Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Salad Bar & Dessert. Vegan Option is available & PBJ for Kids.** The meal will be prepared by **Susie Hilton and her Team.** *Serving starts at 5:15 PM and stops promptly at 6:15 PM.*

For The Record—March 15, 2026	
Worship	435 In Person/115 Online
Offering Goal	\$21,355
Received	\$18,801
<p>You can give online at pacoc.net/give Thanks for your ongoing financial support</p>	